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Rugby 97-98

HOW I ESCAPED VERSACE'S KILLER

PAGE 17



TOMORROW

THE STEVE McMANAMAN COLUMN

IN YOUR BANK HOLIDAY TIMES

DEFINITIVE A-LEVEL LEAGUE TABLE OF 750 SCHOOLS

Cancer 'switch' in body turned on after 25 years of smoking

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

SMOKING for more than 25 years triggers a biological switch that leads to lung cancer, according to a new American study.

long-term ex-smokers who have not had a cigarette in years are still at high risk of getting lung cancer. The switch is a protein that appears on the surface of lung cells of people who have smoked 20 cigarettes a day or more for at least 25 years. The American researchers examined the cells lining the lungs of 37 people, some non-smokers and others smokers. The protein they identified, they

report in the *Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, is a receptor which acts rather like a socket into which another protein plugs itself. When this receptor is present, it captures circulating hormones which are involved in the development of the lungs in the womb, and which encourage cells to divide in the mature lung. The result is the formation of a new cluster of lung

cells, which themselves may continue to produce the same receptors in a self-sustaining cycle. This can lead to cancer. The team found that only 14.7 per cent of those who had smoked for less than 25 years produced the receptor, while 77 per cent of those who had smoked for more than 25 years did so. The discovery of the switch could possibly lead to better treatments.

Dr Siegfried said. "Knowing when this switch appears in someone's lung could help clinicians administer drugs to prevent the final transformation of these cells into cancer. "Better still, if we can turn off this switch, we might significantly reduce the odds that an ex-smoker will ever get lung cancer." The team also found that patients with chronic obstructive lung dis-

ease, usually caused by long-term smoking, respond more strongly to the presence of the switch. The lung cells proliferate more rapidly in such people than they do in people without congestive lung disease. "Our study is an important first step," Dr Siegfried said. "We are currently conducting a large-scale study of smokers and non-smokers to confirm these findings and expand our understanding of the

steps between smoking and the development of lung cancer, which is a very complex process." Cases rising: Smoking among pregnant women is increasing. Health Education Authority figures show. Almost half of women in the lower social classes smoke while pregnant, and over a fifth of those in the top social classes. In both cases the figures have risen significantly since 1992.

Prescott takes on two-car families

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT set out yesterday to make the two-car family a relic of the past with promises of a transport network so good that people would want to switch to trains and buses.

The Deputy Prime Minister announced a range of ideas to entice drivers from their cars — including road tolls and higher parking charges — but insisted that he did not intend simply to tax motorists off the roads.

"It is no good being tough with motorists and not offering them an alternative," he said. "Having two cars is a symptom of the failure of the public transport system rather than a sign of prosperity. I want motorists to make a choice — to be able to say they don't need two cars because public transport is good."

However, in launching the consultation document that should lead to a transport White Paper next spring, Mr Prescott referred repeatedly to the potential benefits of motorway charges, raising fears among motorists groups that ministers were looking to taxes rather than improved public services to curb car use.

Mr Prescott has already said that he expects to see a reduction in the number of cars on the roads within five years and yesterday he promised "a truly integrated approach across the country and across

transport modes". But the Green Paper he published yesterday contained few detailed plans, concentrating instead on seeking opinion on a number of options, including:

- Charging motorists for using congested urban roads and motorways and for driving into London;
- Taxing company car spaces and raising public parking charges;
- A new rail authority combining the functions of the Rail Franchising Director and the Department of the Environment and Transport;
- Creating an orbital railway for central London using existing lines to link up with outlying passenger routes and freight lines, especially from east and south coast ports;
- A campaign to shift freight from roads to rail;
- Better connections between rail services and with bus networks, and closer links between stations and trunk roads to encourage park-and-ride schemes in cities;
- A return to regulation of buses with possible franchising of services;
- Improved road and rail links with airports;
- Greater use of inland waterways to transport freight from ports;
- Safer cycle routes to schools.

However, transport groups and business leaders were



Peter Mandelson, campaigning for a Scottish parliament, meets 9-month-old Robyn Feeney. Poster row, page 2

disappointed by the absence of detailed plans in the document and by its failure to refer to the use of motorway taxes to improve public transport.

The AA said that the time for talk was "fast running out" and the British Road Federation said that increased investment was needed over a sustained period. Freight organisations complained that insufficient attention had been paid to the problem of moving goods on the busiest roads. The Conservatives simply dis-

missed the document as "waffle". But Mr Prescott defended his approach, saying: "I am in Government and I have to talk to people. Do you want me to go blind into this?"

He is, however, likely to face a struggle with Gordon Brown over the use of revenue from motorway and parking charges. Transport ministers say that money raised through extra taxes should be ploughed into public transport improvements. But Treasury

officials see the prospect of another £2 billion a year from motorway charges as a means of increasing spending in other areas.

Although ministers have said that they have no set plans and that they will make no decisions until after the three-month consultation period, Mr Prescott did say that road pricing was seen as "an acceptable option".

The comment, coupled with Mr Brown's promise of raising "green taxes", raised ex-

pectations that the White Paper and the Budget in March would lead to extensive motorway taxation, especially on the three million company cars. Such a policy would be likely to receive the backing of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution which will call next month for further deterrents such as sharp rises in petrol duties are needed to curb car use and improve air quality.

Tips from abroad, page 5

Woman with CJD has been vegetarian for 12 years

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A 24-YEAR-OLD woman who has been vegetarian for the past 12 years has the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease which scientists think is linked to "mad cow" disease.

The case is highly unusual because the first clinical case of BSE was recorded in cattle only in 1986, a year after the woman, Clare Louise Tomkins, of Tonbridge, Kent, is said by her family to have stopped eating beef or any other kind of meat.

Roger Tomkins, Clare's father, said last night that he was told of the diagnosis a week and a half ago by Professor John Collinge, a BSE expert at St Mary's Hospital Medical School in Paddington, west London.

Mr Tomkins said: "My daughter is still alive, but Professor Collinge told me there was no doubt about the diagnosis, which was done by a biopsy of the tonsils. There seems little doubt that she must have caught CJD from mechanically recovered meat eaten before 1985."

"Clare was a very strict vegetarian, though she did eat cheese and drink milk. She would not even eat biscuits if the packet showed that they contained gelatine or animal

fat, for example. We used to joke that she was a bit of a pain about it."

Robert Will, head of the CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh, said it was not impossible that people could have been exposed to BSE in meat products before 1985. "Although the first clinical case of BSE in cattle was not diagnosed until 1986, cattle incubating the disease could have been entering the food chain before then," he said.

Another possibility was that Miss Tomkins might unwittingly have eaten food that contained animal fat or mechanically recovered meat derived from cattle spinal cord or brain. "We simply do not know all the kinds of food such material might have gone into," Dr Will said.

Mr Tomkins said that Clare, who worked in the pet department of a garden centre near her home and was engaged to be married, first showed symptoms of the disease early last year.

Clare is now in an advanced stage of the disease, being fed through a tube directly into her stomach, and needs 24-hour home nursing. There have been 21 other confirmed cases of the new strain of CJD.

Blair help

Tony Blair has agreed to contact the Labour MP Robert Wareing, who claims that his suspension from the party for alleged links with Serbian war criminals has made him suicidal. Page 2

GCSE boy without television sets record with 12 starred As

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

A RECORD-BREAKING haul of a dozen top-grade GCSEs by a comprehensive school boy whose family has no television reopened the debate yesterday about the impact of the small screen on young minds.

Arthur Lovell's 12 A* grades are thought to represent the best performance at GCSE. He studied geography and music after hours at Whitstone Community School, in Shepton Mallet, Somerset, in addition to his regular subjects of mathematics, English language and literature, double science, history, statistics, art and design, French and German.

Debate was re-opened yesterday whether the absence of a television in the family home was the secret of success. Arthur and his five brothers and sisters are said to spend their evenings playing music and sport and doing their homework, although visits to watch neighbours' sets were not unknown.

Arthur, 16, who recently returned from a tour with one of his three orchestras, said he did not feel deprived. "I don't think I am missing much from



Lovell yesterday says TV is not that interesting

what little I do see at friends' homes because it is not that interesting. It means I can enjoy doing other things." The home is not completely without modern communications technology. The children have the use of a computer, bought for schoolwork but often used for games.

Arthur's mother Kate, who is vice-chair of the school's governors, said: "We have never really wanted a television, and it has not been a big issue for the children. We once considered hiring one to watch Wimbledon, but found



"Ahh, now I haven't seen one of these for a very long time"

we would have to have it for the year." Rather than the absence of distractions, Arthur gave the credit to his teachers. "I could not have done it without them, especially the ones who stayed behind to help me with geography and music."

Steve Chaudois, Whitstone's head teacher, said he had expected Arthur to achieve nine top grades, but he had been pleasantly surprised by his maximum score. "I am delighted for Arthur because he is a modest and likeable lad." The 106 pupils' results

included another eight A* grades by Matthew Dury, a friend of Arthur's and fellow musician. The school was in the bottom ten for GCSE in Somerset last year, but has improved its results in each of the past four years.

Arthur is going on to Stroud College to take A levels in English literature, art and design, mathematics and physics. After that, he is aiming for university, but is yet to choose a subject.

Arthur has spent much of his summer holiday painting a mural, which he will leave as his legacy to the school. Yesterday afternoon, before leaving for a celebration with his parents, he was hard at work preparing the wall of a corridor for his painting of typical school scenes.

Two grammar schools in Reading have recorded the best GCSE results for both boys and girls. The girls of Kendrick School topped the year's first GCSE league table, while Reading School recorded the best for boys. The Berkshire town eclipsed its Essex rivals in Chelmsford and Colchester.

Success stories, pages 8, 9
Leading article, page 19
Education, pages 35-39

Fumes hit hole in wall customers

By STEPHEN FARRELL

STAFF and customers at a Halifax branch in central London were evacuated yesterday after being overcome by toxic fumes, believed to be CS gas, pouring from a hole in the wall cash machine.

Police suspect robbers may have hidden a pellet containing the gas as part of a plan to test security at the branch in Victoria Street, Westminster. A dozen people were taken to hospital suffering from eye and throat irritation and breathing difficulties.

The alarm was raised when a customer using the machine in the building's lobby at lunchtime was overcome. Staff who went to his aid were also affected.

Photograph, page 24

Accountancy exams

The results of the Institute of Chartered Accountants final July examination will be published in *The Times* tomorrow. Copies can be bought at the following stations after 10pm tonight: Charing Cross, King's Cross, Victoria, Leicester Square, Euston, Marble Arch, Liverpool Street, Waterloo and Embankment.

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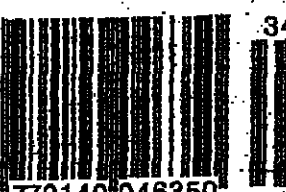
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Scottish Tories use 'Labour sleaze' row in anti-devolution poster

By Shirley English
and Nicholas Watt

THE Conservatives published an anti-devolution poster in Scotland yesterday featuring two Labour MPs suspended from the party.

The faces of a smiling Tommy Graham and a stern Mohammad Sarwar formed the letter "O" in the words "No No" beneath a slogan which asked "Could you really face a Scottish parliament?"

Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, was yesterday campaigning in Glasgow for a "Yes, Yes" vote in next month's referendum, in which voters will be asked if they want a Scottish parliament to be established and whether it should have tax-varying powers. Mr Mandelson con-

demned the poster as a "pathetic and desperate stunt".

However, Labour's difficulties continued to overshadow the devolution campaign in Scotland. Labour councillors in West Renfrewshire refused to take action against an ally of Mr Graham, Harry Revie, who was this week suspended by the Labour Party from holding office.

The council rejected a motion from Scottish Nationalists calling for Councillor Revie to be removed from his position as convenor of the Property and Construction Services Committee. Mr Revie served as Mr Graham's election agent and is a former director of the now-defunct company FCB Security which is under police investigation. The full council

Can you really face a Scottish Parliament?



The poster unveiled by the Tories in the campaign for two No votes in next month's referendum.

meeting was the first since the suicide of Gordon McMaster, the Labour MP for Paisley South.

The Conservative poster sug-

gested that the party now believes that emphasising "sleaze" rather than the "tartan tax" is the way to win No votes. It also landed a blow

against the argument of "yes" campaigners that a parliament in Edinburgh is Scotland's birthright and that true patriots will vote "yes

yes" on September 12. Raymond Robertson, the Scottish Tory chairman, said: "The message we are trying to put forward today is - do you want to be controlled by a Scottish parliament that's Paisley writ large?"

The Tory-dominated anti-devolution Think Twice campaign, which has sought not to alienate Labour voters, yesterday backed the poster's sentiments. Brian Monteith, a spokesman, said: "While we have always believed we are winning on the second question [on tax-varying powers], we think we are now beginning to win the argument on the first question [on a Scottish parliament], too, and that is down to Paisley. Over the past two weeks the campaign has raised £170,000 in

private donations from business and individuals.

Mr Mandelson shrugged off suggestions that the allegations of sleaze would damage Labour's "Yes Yes" campaign. But during a walkabout in the Glasgow suburb of Rutherglen he met staunch Labour supporters opposed to the Government's plans.

Thomas Collins, 53, who described himself as a life-long Labour voter, said that he would vote "Yes" to a Parliament in Edinburgh but "No" to tax-varying powers. Mr Mandelson said: "It is very important for the authority and credibility of the Scottish parliament to have that financial responsibility. It is not a ramp for higher taxes nor is it a slippery slope to separatism."

Blair answers cry for help by 'suicidal' MP

TONY BLAIR intervened yesterday to defuse the controversy over a Labour MP who claims that his suspension from the party made him suicidal.

The Prime Minister has agreed to contact Robert Wareing, whose written plea for help has gone unanswered by Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, for two months. Friends were so concerned about Mr Wareing's mental state that they sought help from the widow of a Tory MP who killed himself.

Mr Blair's involvement came as several Labour MPs described the case of the Liverpool West Derby MP as an example of the party's authoritarian approach and the heavyhandedness of whips.

Friends of Mr Wareing, 66, said he was driven to the edge of despair after he wrote in June asking Mr Brown for a meeting because "he felt sui-

Leader steps in

as treatment of

Wareing appalls

friends on Labour

benches, reports

Andrew Pierce

cidial" after his suspension for alleged links with Serbian war criminals.

He still has not received a reply from Mr Brown, who investigated the behaviour of Labour MPs who were accused of mounting a whispering campaign against Gordon McMaster, the MP who committed suicide last month.

Many Labour MPs were appalled by the disclosure in *The Times* yesterday that Mr Wareing's despair had led

friends to put him in touch with Janet Heddie, Tory MP for Mid-Shropshire, who killed herself in 1989.

Labour MPs rallied to the support of Mr Wareing, who was disciplined after failing to register a £6,000 payment from Metta Trading and for not registering a shareholding in a company.

Tam Dalyell, the MP for Linlithgow, said yesterday: "When one is in the Westminster doghouse people need help. Bob Wareing is a Labour Party veteran. Bob Mellish, a former Chief Whip, took an East London view of people who were in trouble which was to call them 'bleeding idiots' and be nice to them."

Roger Stott, Labour MP for Wigan since 1970, said that the whips had let down Mr Wareing. He also accused them of neglecting Mr McMaster. "There should be an urgent meeting between the Chief Whip and the chairman of the Labour Party when the House resumes to identify problems that arise in MPs' personal lives," Mr Stott said. "I was amazed to read about Bob Wareing being helped by the widow of a Tory MP. We should be helping our own."

Mrs Heddie told *The Times*: "If I am the safety net for Labour MPs it seems there is something drastically wrong with the system."

"I listened to Mr Wareing and was a friend. He had no one to turn to and no one to share his problems with. It is supposed to be the job of the whips' office to help MPs who feel this way. But I am not sure they care."

The Labour leadership stood by Mr Brown yesterday, saying that he had acted properly, and hinted that there was little prospect of the internal exile of Mr Wareing coming to an end. But party sources confirmed last night that Mr Blair would contact Mr Wareing next week after his holiday. The source said: "Bob Wareing will be given a full and thorough reply to his letters when the Prime Minister comes back."

Mr Wareing has written to Mr Blair expressing his relief that he has "taken the matter into his own hands".

Mr Wareing compared his resulting depression from the suspension with Mr McMaster. "I know exactly how Gordon will have felt during his last dark hours and I am deeply sorry that he was unable to come through his own turmoil."

Letters, page 19



Molten metal is poured into a cast at Whitechapel yesterday. Dozens of bells will be cast for the millennium.

RUSTY church bells which have lain silent for more than a century are to be restored in a £3 million project to ring in the millennium. Dozens more new bells will be cast and hung in churches around Britain in an initiative which began yesterday (Carol Midgley writes).

Bell castings for three of the buildings, St John the Evangelist, Preston, St Thomas à Becket chapel, Shirenewton, Cheshire, and St Peter and St Paul, Wingrave, Buckinghamshire, started in Whitechapel, East London, at one of two such foundries in the country. The

Bells will ring again to mark the millennium

funding was allocated by the Millennium Commission to plans proposed by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, a charity of volunteers formed in 1891.

About 100 churches and other buildings will have new and restored bells

which will peal out the close of the second millennium and the start of the third.

A spokesman for the ringers said: "It is very exciting as new bells will be placed alongside old ones which may have been out of use for decades. All the bells throughout Britain will be sounding out at midnight on New Year's Eve, 1999. It will be fantastic."

"The idea of ringing in the millennium nationwide with new and restored bells, some of which have been silent for over 100 years, precisely fits the spirit of the millennium celebration."

Farmers protest at strength of pound

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

FARMERS protested yesterday that the strength of the pound was threatening their livelihoods. They demanded hundreds of millions of pounds from the Government in compensation.

Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, said the 20 per cent appreciation of sterling over the past 12 months would reduce the value of agricultural output by £1.5 billion this year.

He was speaking after a 3.6 per cent revaluation yesterday of the "green pound", the special exchange rate used to convert European Union farm prices and subsidies into sterling. It is the fourth such change this year.

The NFU estimates that the sterling price of milk has fallen by 14 per cent and that of feed wheat by 28 per cent over the past year.

More hospital waits put election pledge at risk

By James Landale, Political Reporter

THE Government was given a warning yesterday that it was likely to break its election pledge to cut hospital waiting lists, after new figures showed the largest increase since 1948.

Health officials said the number of patients waiting to be admitted had risen by 12.9 per cent since June 1996, a rise of 136,500 to a total of 1.2 million. The Tories said Labour would be forced to break its manifesto promise to cut waiting lists by 100,000, using money saved from cuts in hospital bureaucracy.

Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, blamed the rise on the previous Tory administration and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to make waiting list cuts a priority.

However, the minister admitted that the figures were likely to continue rising. Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, Mr Milburn said: "We would be pulling the wool over people's eyes if I didn't make it clear

today that the likelihood is that waiting lists are going to carry on rising for some time."

John Maples, the Shadow Health Secretary, said: "Today's figures show that the Government is likely to break its key election pledge to reduce NHS waiting lists by 100,000. Unfortunately, the Government is exacerbating the problem by increasing costs and reducing efficiency. This means that the Labour-run NHS needs more money than a Conservative-run NHS to treat the same number of patients."

Evan Harris, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman, criticised the Government for making promises it could not keep.

He said ministers had to choose between breaking their election pledge to reduce waiting lists or their five-year pledge not to raise the upper rate of income tax. "Labour cannot blame the Tory NHS spending record for the state of NHS waiting lists while at

the same time adopting Tory spending plans," he said.

The figures also showed that the number of people waiting more than 18 months for treatment - a breach of the Patient's Charter - had also risen. At the end of June this year, the figure was 388, compared with only nine a year earlier. The number of patients waiting more than a year has risen by 36,000 since last year, when the total stood at 10,400.

Overall, waiting lists have increased in seven of the eight health regions, with only Trent experiencing a fall. However, comparisons between regions are complicated by differing population levels and numbers of hospitals.

In Trent, 121,030 people were waiting treatment, a cut of 310. The largest list is in the North West region, where 187,880 patients were awaiting treatment, a rise of 2,650. In the Northern and Yorkshire region, the list ran to 145,420, a rise of 4,750.

A tribunal report on secret payments to Irish politicians, including £1.3 million to the former Prime Minister Charles Haughey, will be published on Monday.

The tough guy who also knows how to soft-soap

NICK BROWN, 47, relishes his role as one of the most powerful and feared individuals at Westminster. Traditionally the power has been wielded behind the scenes, but he has been thrust into the limelight by his role as whipfinder-general in Paisley and by the Robert Wareing affair.

While he is described as more of a nice cop than a bully, he has been given powers which his predecessors as Chief Whip could only dream of: instant suspension of erring MPs. He once said: "They would risk expulsion from whatever I could get them expelled from."

Affable, articulate and bright, he still manages to convey an aura of quiet menace. Yet his first job after graduating from Manchester University, was an advertising executive with Procter and Gamble. Having initially excelled Ariel washing powder, he turned a fabric softener into a household name with the slogan: "Providing housewives with a softness and freshness they have never known before." It is still in use.

He cut short his advertising career to move into management in a chain of laundrettes, but eventually turned his back

MAN IN THE NEWS

on soap powder to work in the legal department of the GMB. In 1983 he became MP for Newcastle-upon-Tyne East. He was marked out for promotion and became deputy to Margaret Beckett, when she was Shadow Leader of the Commons. Before the election, he was Deputy Chief whip. Few people who know him were surprised by his decision to ostracise Robert Wareing. He has always been a staunch believer that the role of individuals should be subservient to the good of the party.



Brown: good cop rather than bully

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DELL

Millionaire's son is cleared of assault on police

A MILLIONAIRE shoe-shop businessman who fosters underprivileged children spoke of his relief last night after one of his adopted sons was acquitted of assaulting a policeman.

John Timpson, chairman of the Oliver group, which owns 310 shoe shops under the 'Olivers and Timpsons' names, hugged his son Oliver, 21, after a jury cleared him of causing actual bodily harm for allegedly punching and kicking a policeman following a heavy drinking session with work colleagues.

Mr Timpson senior, who has five children, including another adopted son, and who has fostered dozens of children over the past 20 years with his wife, Alexandra, said: "It is a great relief. It has been a stressful time, but we are a close family and this has brought us closer together."

His son, who works for his father's £70 million firm, added: "I have learned a lesson and I will certainly not be celebrating this verdict with nine pints."

The Timpsons live in a large house in Tarporley in the stockbroker belt of Cheshire. Their three natural children, Victoria, James and Edward are grown up. The Timpsons

Father speaks of family's relief at verdict on boy he adopted, reports

Joanna Bale

also have an adopted son Henry, nine, who came to live with them as a newborn baby, and are currently fostering three other children.

Southwark Crown Court was told that Oliver Timpson had drunk eight or nine pints when he assaulted the policeman who arrested him on December 13 last year.

PC Simon Suter, 32, was criticised in court for wrongly arresting Mr Timpson and accused of "deliberately exaggerating" his injuries to harm Mr Timpson's case and to back up his compensation claim against the Metropolitan Police.

Mr Timpson, who was adopted aged 7 after being fostered at 6, told the court he is normally a light drinker, but during a party with 30 colleagues of his father's firm, he became involved in a fight

at the Norfolk Tavern in South Kensington.

PC Suter arrived with a WPC and arrested Mr Timpson for "being drunk on licensed premises" which is not an arrestable charge. At Chelsea police station he became involved in a struggle with them as he tried to leave. All three fell struggling to the floor. It was then that PC Suter said he was kicked and punched.

Mr Timpson told the court he could not remember exactly what happened but he accepted he may have used his feet. He said: "I was thrashing out in general to get away from the officers."

PC Suter was declared unfit for duty and sent home after a police surgeon treated him for shock and injuries to his ribs and head. The officer later saw his own doctor and a psychiatrist, claiming to be suffering nightmares and insomnia. He said the incident had also brought on impulses of violence within him when in any scene of confrontation.

Judge Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, told the jury: "The only authority the police had was to arrest him from the pub. The police could have ejected him using reasonable force but they had no right to arrest him."

The law says, just as a police officer may use reasonable force to make an arrest, a person unlawfully arrested is entitled to use such force that is reasonably necessary to free himself from unreasonable arrest."

Mr Timpson senior said he had yet to consider a claim for damages against the police. His son, who rang his natural mother after the verdict, added: "I will be careful in future where and how much I drink."

PC Suter was unavailable for comment.



Shoe shop owner John Timpson with his son, Oliver

Family of man blinded in fight to sue privately

By RICHARD DUCE

ANGRY relatives of a man left blinded and crippled after he tried to halt a street brawl plan private prosecution against the man they hold responsible for his injuries.

Although Mark Bowman was jailed for 15 months yesterday for his part in the brawl, he was earlier cleared of attacking Daniel Gallimore because police did not hold an identity parade.

Mr Gallimore suffered serious head injuries when he was knocked to the floor as he intervened in the brawl involving Bowman and another man, Wayne Pople.

Sylvia Gallimore, who saw Bowman jailed at Bristol Crown Court for assault and for the assault on Mr Pople, said she was determined to win justice for her injured son, who is 21. She is hoping to get legal aid to bring a private prosecution against Bowman, of Nailsea, near Bristol.

"I am glad he has been jailed but justice has not been done. My son will never be able to see again properly and nobody has been punished for that."

"We are also considering taking civil action. This is not the end of the matter. Beyond a doubt the failure to hold an identity parade was the reason the case was dropped. If we cannot get legal aid, and we think there is a strong possibility that we will, we will consider a public appeal for funds or even a loan."

Mrs Gallimore, 49, a school secretary of Redland, Bristol, said: "Bowman can go back to his job. My son cannot work again. Mr Gallimore was in a coma for a month after he suffered his injuries outside a Bristol public house in May last year and is now confined to a wheelchair. He has lost sight in one eye and can barely see out of the other."

Before yesterday's hearing he said: "No one seems bothered about what happened to me. My injuries seem to have been ignored. There doesn't seem to be any justice in this country."

Three men were arrested after the incident and both Bowman and Mark Horler, also 21 of Bedminster, Bristol, were eventually charged with the attack on Mr Gallimore, a computer technician. However, the charges were dropped after a judge was told there had been no identity parade.

Inspector Keith Jones of Avon and Somerset police said: "Identity was not in question at the time of the original charges. An old-fashioned committal hearing of the evidence was held and accepted by the magistrates who thought there was a case to answer. However, the judge at Crown Court decided that it was unsafe to put before a jury. The witnesses had named the accused and said they knew them. It appears they did not."

Husband who tried to kill wife freed

By A STAFF REPORTER

A HUSBAND who wrongly believed for 50 years that he had contracted a venereal disease during National Service tried to murder his wife because he thought she was dying from it.

William Everett, 69, described at the Old Bailey as a placid man, suddenly attacked his partner of 34 years with a truncheon and a carving knife at their home in Romford, Essex, in May this year. He also tried to strangle her. It was his intention then to kill himself.

The retired security guard, who admitted the attempted murder of his wife Joy, 68 — who has forgiven him and was in court to support her husband yesterday — and was shown mercy by the Common Sergeant of London, Neil Derison, QC, who placed him on probation for two years.

Because of the delusion that he had contracted a sexually transmitted disease, Everett had never had children. When earlier this year his wife contracted what, in fact, was simply a conjunctivitis, he believed it was a manifestation of that disease.

The judge told him: "Mercifully your resolve failed and you stopped the attack before any fatal injuries were inflicted on your wife. She has forgiven you and she is desperate to have you home to end what she has described as her nightmare — and I am not going to stand in the way."

Cheap Woolworths tea set fetches £1,000 at Christie's

By JOHN SHAW

IT WAS just cheap and cheerful tableware which once sold for a few shillings at Woolworths. Now it is no longer cheap, and anyone who ever scorned it at a jumble sale is no longer cheerful. Yesterday, Christie's held the first specialised auction devoted to chintz pottery.

Items sold for up to £1,000. At the South Kensington auction, as the flowered pottery in everyday use from the 1930s to the 1960s was recognised as a collector's item.

The range included tea sets with two-tier cake stands transfer printed with roses,



Causing a stir: a chintz teacup

daffodils, bluebells or sweet peas. Hundreds of different patterns were made. Leonard Grimwade, founder of Royal Winton, is said to have drew inspiration for the designs from cushion covers and from aprons worn by his factory girls. The top lot yesterday

was a tea set in the intensely coloured Richmond pattern, which fetched £1,035, more than £100 above the top estimate. It was made by Royal Winton, one of the four Staffordshire factories producing chintz.

A pair of Crown Ducal vases in "Ivory chintz" were bought by Jo Anne Welsh, an American estate agent from Maryland, who has written a book on the subject and was wearing a chintz-pattern necklace and bracelet. She paid £322 for vases which had been estimated at £150-£200.

Twenty-two of 103 lots were left unsold, but a second sale is planned for October.



More than 100 fans queued outside the HMV record store in Oxford Street yesterday. The store sold 750 copies of *Be Here Now* in the first hour

A CARDBOARD cut-out of Liam Gallagher rubs his hands with glee outside the HMV record store in Oxford Street as more than 100 Oasis fans queued yesterday to buy the group's new album (Carol Midgley writes).

More than 750 copies of *Be Here Now* were sold within an hour of the store opening. The album is already on course to become the fastest-selling British album in history, with 9,000 an hour being sold nationwide by Our Price and Virgin Megastores. Retailers forecast that the band's third album would break the record held by Robson Green and Jerome Flynn, who sold 483,000 copies of *Robson and Jerome* in five days in December 1995.

Several hundred fans camped out all night outside

Hundreds camp out for launch of Oasis album

tailers forecast that the band's third album would break the record held by Robson Green and Jerome Flynn, who sold 483,000 copies of *Robson and Jerome* in five days in December 1995.

Several hundred fans camped out all night outside

record shops to be the first to buy *Be Here Now* at £13.99 when stores opened at 8am. Their loyalty was rewarded with "I Was There Then" certificates or Manchester City shirts, the football team supported by Noel and Liam Gallagher, handed out by

HMV staff. However, the brothers were absent, Liam and his wife, Patsy Kensit, were on holiday in St Tropez while Noel and his wife, Meg Matthews, rented a villa in Marbella.

An estimated 800,000 albums had been ordered by

shops nationwide but by the end of the day many stores had sold out. HMV said that it expected to have sold 100,000 copies by close of trading today. "We multiply by five to account for the other retailers which will mean estimated sales of 500,000 nationwide by the end of the week," it said.

Tower Records, Piccadilly Circus, reported its biggest morning sales for any album in the store's ten-year history.

Pop, page 33

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Millions jet off in the great August exodus

Lin Jenkins reports on a holiday spree fuelled by heatwave and windfalls

A RECORD August Bank Holiday exodus gets under way today with an estimated five million people leaving home for a short break.

The mass getaway, boosted by hot weather and building society windfalls, will see more than three million people taking to the roads and another 1.5 million heading abroad, a rise of 16 per cent on last year.

Weather forecasters, however, were proving less confident yesterday and admitted that they could not yet tell whether Monday would be cold and wet with temperatures of 18C, or scorching hot and sunny with a high of 32C.

The vast numbers of people travelling will bring added frustration to motorists. The annual Notting Hill carnival will cause problems in west London, the Lake District is predicted to be very busy, as will theme parks and beaches up and down the country.

The AA and RAC issued warnings that roads out of London would be packed today, even though many people now extended the traditional Bank Holiday break by a few days — travelling on Thursday or even Wednesday. Conditions would seem particularly trying because of the oppressive humidity and heat.

An AA Roadwatch spokesman said: "The evening rush

hour will start a lot earlier than usual with routes to the coast being particularly packed.

"The notorious blackspots will, of course, be worse but on the whole people have got much better at staggering their travelling times to prevent huge congestion."

He warned motorists to

check the oil and water in their cars and to take soft drinks for the inevitable hot sticky wait in a traffic jam.

Temperatures are expected to remain warm, although nearer normal for the time of year. Forecasting the weather over the holiday weekend has been made difficult by the unpredictability of a front

lying across the whole of the country.

To the south of it will be hot humid weather, with the risk of attendant thunderstorms, and to the north cooler weather but more settled.

Tomorrow will be cloudy in the morning with temperatures up to 28C with a risk of rain from the south west in all areas.

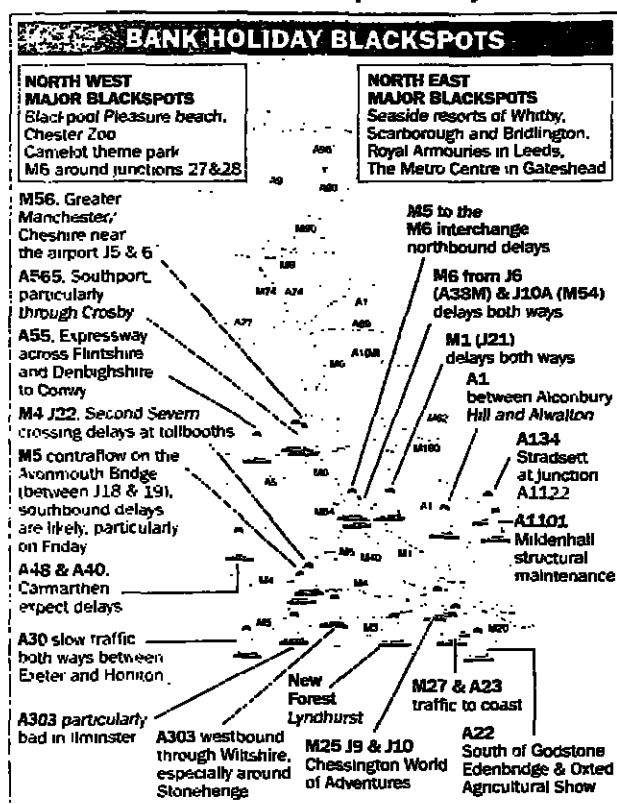
By Sunday the area to the south of the front will see temperatures up to 30C, with northern France expected to reach 35C, and the country north of the front about 25C and less sunny.

"Our guidance for Monday is anything from 18C to 32C. It could be cold and rain all day, or be one of the hottest, sunniest days of the month. It all depends on how the front moves," said a spokesman for the London Weather Centre.

Heathrow and Gatwick airports combined are expecting one million departing passengers and a further 500,000 will leave from regional airports, including Manchester (250,000), Luton (56,000) and Birmingham (48,000).

More than 40,000 travellers are expected to use Channel Tunnel high-speed Eurostar train services from London to Paris and Brussels, and 250,000 will use the Le Shuttle vehicle services or sailing on ferries.

Forecast, and AA Roadwatch, page 24



Prison visitor: Dot Oliver reunited with Ollie, the African grey, that feasted on biscuits in Wormwood Scrubs

Errant jailbird wins early release

By DANIEL McGRORY

THE breakout appeared to be flawless. Tired of confinement, Ollie the parrot sneaked into its owner's kitchen and took wing from a window to what it believed was a life of freedom.

Unfortunately, when it stopped for a rest, the bird landed in the lifers' wing at Wormwood Scrubs. An in-

mate was startled when the prison visitor hopped into his cell and screamed: "Hello, I love you."

It was all the African grey had to say for the next couple of days as the authorities tried to coax some clues about its owner. The prisoner, who inevitably became known to other inmates as the Birdman of the Scrubs, shared his biscuits with Ollie

and the bird seemed content with its new, larger cage.

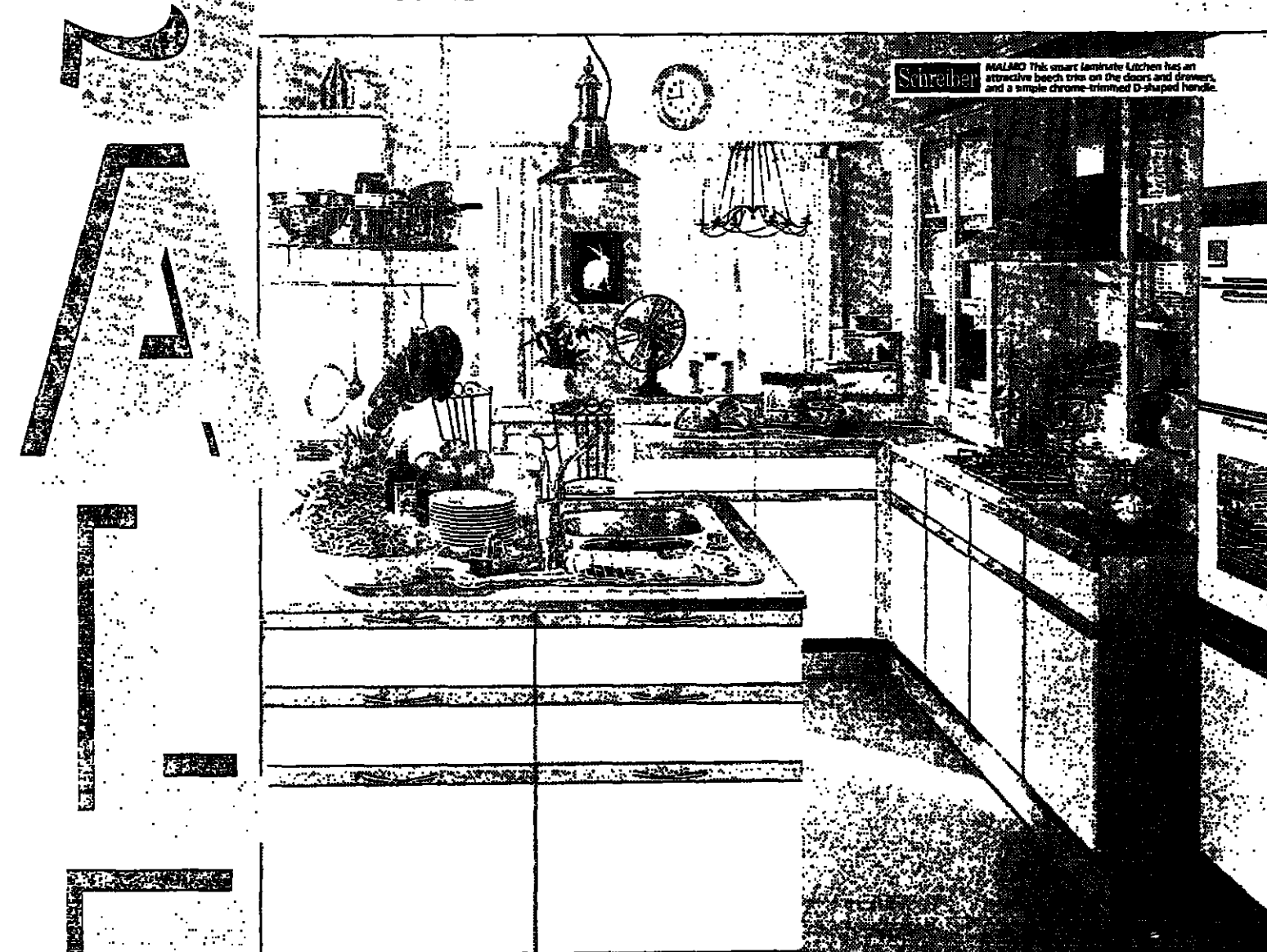
Five miles away its owner, Dot Oliver, who had reported the escape to the RSPCA, was astounded when a prison officer telephoned to say Ollie was behind bars. Reunited with the runaway yesterday, Miss Oliver, a legal secretary in Barnes, west London, said: "Ollie was exhausted and the pris-

oner coaxed him back to health. His first meal was apparently an entire packet of chocolate digestives."

Miss Oliver has promised to send the prisoner photographs of his temporary cellmate. She was relieved that Ollie, a birthday present two years ago, had not picked up any prison slang. "We are very careful to make sure he behaves himself."

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The meek shall inherit more life



WOMEN who are by nature submissive, retiring and self-effacing are less likely to have heart attacks, new research has shown. A five-year study funded by the British Heart Foundation and carried out by researchers at the University of Edinburgh has shown that women aged between 55 and 74, the years that are particularly vulnerable to heart attacks, are less likely to have one if they rate themselves as being submissive and low in self-esteem.

The Edinburgh researchers studied 809 men and 783 women. By the end of five years, 10 per cent of the men and 4.5 per cent of the women had suffered heart attacks. The work, reported in *The Lancet*, shows that the greater the degree of submissiveness, the more the likelihood of a coronary thrombosis was reduced in the women. In submissive men other factors related to heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, smoking, and lack of exercise reduced the significance of their results.

People who are submissive prefer to stay in the background. They are by nature meek, and are modest about their own abilities; not unnat-

urally they have little self-confidence. Volunteers taking part in the study completed questionnaires designed to identify people who lack confidence and tend to stay in the background.

The Edinburgh research supports earlier work on the relationship between personality and coronary heart disease in men. A recent American study showed that men aged between 40 and 60 who were categorised as being placid were nearly 40 per cent less likely to die from a heart attack than those who were either socially dominant or hostile and readily displayed anger. Both the latter characteristics increased liability to coronary heart disease.

A spokesman for the British Heart Foundation said that the study did not detract from the need for people to take regular exercise, to reduce their intake of saturated fat, to stop smoking and to avoid excessive alcohol intake. But it would help doctors to improve their ability to predict who was most at risk of coronary heart disease.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFOED

'Missing' WPC found weeping in her panda

A SEARCH for a police officer who vanished after a newspaper carried reports about her love life was called off yesterday when she was found crying in her patrol car.

Thames Valley Police had mobilised a helicopter and tracker dogs in their search for WPC Debbie Forbes when she failed to book off duty on Wednesday evening. She was eventually found 18 hours later in Chipping Sodbury, near Bristol, after neighbouring forces joined the search.

On Tuesday, WPC Forbes, 32, was named in a national newspaper report as having left her husband and two children to set up home with another married officer. She was found by officers from the Avon and Somerset force. A Thames Valley Police spokeswoman said: "We are pleased to announce that WPC Debbie Forbes has been found safe and well. Our foremost concern at this stage is WPC Forbes's welfare. We will not be discussing the difficulties that she currently faces in her private life."

CORRECTION

The City Diary (July 31) stated that Jill Rutter had been sacked from the Treasury press office, when in fact she left at her own request.

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Prescott takes pollution tips from abroad

MINISTERS visiting European cities have been ordered to take public transport and report back on successful measures to combat air pollution, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday.

The operation, which is being launched in a few weeks and will continue through Britain's EU presidency beginning in January, is likely to keep British politicians busy.

London, like most British cities, has no emergency measures to stop air pollution becoming a health hazard and few cities have long-term schemes to tackle the problem.

Ministers urged to report back from foreign trips on how Britain can clean up its act, reports Nick Nuttall

Scores of overseas cities, including Paris, have been more visionary, however.

Athens has tested cutting the number of cars during high pollution episodes by allowing only cars with odd-numbered plates in the city one day and even-numbered ones the next.

São Paulo in Brazil, which suffers persistent high levels of pollution, has launched a version of the Athens scheme, which operates throughout the summer. A rota system, in which a fifth of cars

normally entering the city are banned for a week, has been introduced. The project is backed up by thousands of enforcement officers handing out fines to motorists breaking the rules. A spokesman for Transport 2000 said that the compliance rate was over 90 per cent.

Tim Brown, of the National Society for Clean Air, said yesterday that several German cities had banned vehicles without catalytic converters on polluted days.

Some cities, such as Bremen, are

pioneering communities with little or no car parking. In return, the houses have more space and green areas. Roger Higman, of Friends of the Earth, said yesterday that Edinburgh City Council and Camden council, in north London, were looking at similar schemes.

Gothenburg, in Sweden, in common with several Scandinavian cities, has declared environmental zones. Only modern HGVs, taxis and buses meeting high emissions standards are allowed.

Salzburg has declared Fridays

ozone-free in a bid to get people thinking about leaving the car at home. Warden patrol traffic jams on Thursdays, handing out free bus tickets for the next day. The scheme is being run in conjunction with a steady decrease in parking and road space, and more bicycle and bus lanes.

Zurich has seen a fall in car use and pollution over the past decade. Journeys to work by car have dropped from 24 per cent to 18 per cent. Now 60 per cent of travel to work is by Zurich's network of

trams, trolleys and buses. Mr Brown said: "There have also been some pretty madcap ideas. Mexico City have proposed putting up propellers on nearby hills to blow smog away."

Mr Prescott said yesterday: "I do think we have a lot to learn from other European countries. They have more cars per head than we do. But they use them less because they have a good public transport system."

Mr Brown, whose society represents scientists, local authorities

and campaigners, said Paris could afford to slash public transport costs on polluted days because the city owned the public transport network and this could subsidise cut-price fares.

He said boroughs in London and in other cities wanted to follow suit but they were effectively barred from doing so: "They can't divert funds to subsidise such schemes."

He said that, if the Government were really serious about tackling the issue, perks such as subsidised company cars with free parking and fuel should be taxed and the funds given to improving public transport.

Second-car boom puts the electoral brake on reforms

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

SIX million families are unlikely to give up their cars, says the Government, as it faces a political backlash and tries to tax them off the roads and into buses and taxis.

The growth of households with more than one car reflects rapidly changing lifestyles in which fathers, mothers and children scatter into different directions, to reach work, school and shops.

Twenty years ago, when Father was driving a rickety Austin Allegro, Mother bought groceries at the corner shop and the children walked to school, only one in ten households had two or more cars. Today that figure has risen to one in four because of increased affluence and the growth in company cars.

People in rural communities are to shop in towns and choose schools for their child-

ren which offer wider opportunities than the ones in their villages. The result is a huge change in the infrastructure of communities: shopping is now a major weekly event for working parents instead of a daily visit by a housewife.

The Automobile Association says that 90 per cent of shopping journeys are made by car, usually to the edge-of-town supermarkets which have helped to kill off the corner shop. Eight in ten AA members say that life would be "very difficult" without a car and, if motoring costs rose substantially, they would simply do without leisure trips but still use the car for shopping, the school run and work.

Paul Waters, the AA's head of road and transport policy, said: "It is a huge mistake to think of the second car as some sort of luxury. There are

no alternatives for families which have complex travelling arrangements to different places and at different times of the day. The Government should also not forget that Britain's motorists have many needs and rural communities simply do not have the choice. Families in villages have to have more than one car just to cope with their daily lives."

Chris MacGowan, chief executive of the Retail Motor Industry Federation, added: "If we look at rural areas, where is the funding to come from to pay for John Prescott's public transport? Until there is a clear, reliable and safe alternative, people will not use public transport."

Motor industry executives will also tell Mr Prescott that the dire warnings of an explosion in car ownership are unfounded. Car ownership in Britain is already much lower than in many industrialised countries - 430 per thousand people compared with 530 in Italy, 500 in Germany and 590 in the United States - and the number of multi-car homes has remained constant over the past decade at about 20 per cent. Households with three or more cars have remained at 4 per cent since 1989, while total annual sales of new cars have remained steady at about 2 million for the past decade.

Those figures back up estimates by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders that car ownership is levelling out and will not hit the 40 million predicted by government advisors for 2020. Studies by the society show a peak of not more than 30 million.



The number 68 at the Louvre yesterday on a route that also passes the Musée d'Orsay and Boulevard Saint Germain. The round-trip costs just 24p

Parisian heat is just the ticket for tourists



Ben Macintyre takes the soixante-huit for a cheap sightseeing tour, courtesy of new anti-pollution laws

FARES on Paris trains, buses and the Métro were halved yesterday in an attempt to lift the pall of pollution hanging over the city by persuading motorists to use public transport.

The city has a three-level alert system, with increasing deterrents for motorists according to the amount of pollution. Public transport will be free and vehicles allowed to take to the roads only on alternate days if pollution reaches level three (360 micrograms of ozone per cubic metre of air).

That level has yet to be reached, but a fortnight of stifling heat has lifted the city to level two (180mcg). Accordingly, the price of a single ticket on buses and all trains has been halved to four francs (40p), or just 2.4 francs each in a carnet, or pack of ten. Also, road speed limits have been

cut and police have appealed for motorists to leave their cars at home.

The half-price travel lasts until tomorrow, but may be extended if the air quality does not improve. In the meantime, it offers one of the best tourist bargains of the

summer: for 24p one can travel around the city's most beautiful sights by bus, in comparative comfort.

My bus, the chic number 68, goes from Rue du Bac, over Pont Royal, past the Tuilleries, across Rue de Rivoli and up to the Opéra. It

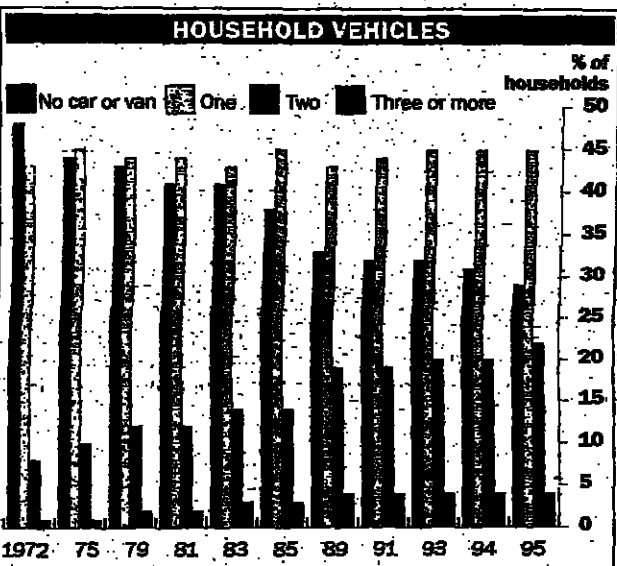
then returns via the Louvre and its pyramid, past the Musée d'Orsay and up Boulevard Saint Germain. On a round-trip, therefore, the centime-conscious can see each tourist haunt at a cost of less than 3p per sight.

Making the journey on foot would be a trial without a gas-mask, as well as expensive and time-consuming, given the liquid refreshment that would be necessary at cafés en route. By car, it would be environmentally antisocial and nerve-racking, as the pollution has pushed the ag-

gression of taxi-drivers up another terrifying notch.

Inevitably, the new fares have led to controversy. Holders of season tickets are disgruntled because they have not been offered a refund, and unions fear that lost revenue will lead to lost jobs.

Those hoping to stockpile the cut-price tickets could be disappointed: "As soon as the pollution gets better, they may alter the machines so the magnetic strip on the ticket won't work," the ticket-seller at the Opéra Métro said after I had bought a carnet.



How families get about today

Some households find that they need three cars; and some husbands opt for two wheels, reports Peter Foster

WHEN David and Clare Thompson moved to the country from London last month they had to buy a second car.

In the capital, they often found it easier to use the Tube and buses than fight through traffic congestion. Now that they live in the village of Hurstbourne Tarrant in Hampshire, Mrs Thompson could not manage without her Volkswagen Polo runabout.

Mr Thompson, 33, is an area manager for a large brewing firm and drives around as part of his job. After his husband has left for work in his Peugeot 406 estate, she drives to the out-of-town supermarket to buy items for their new home.

"Our second car is a necessity. If I didn't have it I would be marooned while David is at work. In London, one of us

would drive to work and the other take the Tube, but out here the public transport is not good enough."

The demise of the village shop and the rise of the shopping centre on the edge of towns inevitably meant more car journeys, Mrs Thompson, 31, said. She has found the local bus service too infrequent to be practical, particularly for carrying heavy shopping home. She recognised that tough decisions would have to be made to deal with car congestion, but admitted that she would not be first to volunteer to do without her car.

"The couple who do not have children at the moment, use one car at weekends."

The Gay family became a three-car household when their teenage daughter passed

her driving test this year. Pauline and Sean Gay, who live in Wandsworth, south-west London, acquired an Austin Metro so their daughter could drive herself to the restaurant where she works.

Mr Gay drives his ageing Saab saloon to the City. Mrs Gay has a Ford Sierra estate for shopping and ferrying her children to riding lessons in Cobham, Surrey. Her daughter's new-found independence makes life easier for Mrs Gay as well.

Mr Gay has a job with a shipping company which involves driving to ports around Britain. Giving up one or more of their cars would, Mrs Gay said, mean that her girls would have to give up riding. "Life would become an organisational nightmare."

The family would not be deterred by charges for using roads in cities. "The only way to make a real difference is to ban cars from inner London," Mrs Gay said.

Barry Sutton, who is married with five children, bought a motorcycle when his family outgrew his sports car. The 600cc Yamaha that replaced the Porsche offers him cheap, fast and efficient transport.

For years, he commuted by train from Ashford, Middlesex: "I used to waste three hours a day fighting my way



Barry Sutton on his 600cc Yamaha

into work, putting up with strikes and leaves on the line. Now my journey takes 30 minutes and I am not at the back and call of a train timetable."

His wife, Nikki, 34, has a Fiat people-carrier for taking the children into town and to school. The whole family go on their summer holidays to Scotland in the car. Mr Sutton, 33, who works as a financial adviser in London, also uses his bike to get to golf and rugby at the weekends. He believes that people will never take public transport as long as it remains inefficient and ungenerous. He said: "The Government should create special bike lanes to make it easier for bikers to use the roads, instead of banning them from bus and cycle lanes."

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3rd Issue Monthly	£1,000	6.13%	6.31%	4.90%
4th Issue Yearly	£1,000	5.80%	-	4.64%
4th Issue Monthly	£1,000	5.65%	5.80%	4.52%

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Year property built _____ No. of storeys _____

PRUDENTIAL

Judge calls on trust to rethink hunt ban

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

DEER-HUNTERS failed yesterday to win a High Court injunction suspending a ban on their hunting on National Trust land, but were granted leave to seek a further hearing.

Lord Justice Walker advised the trust to reconsider the ban, making clear that he was not ordering it to do so. The judge said the deer-hunters had an arguable "but not a strong case" that the trust's decision had been flawed because of the "speed and secrecy" with which it had been taken. The question of whether the ban was lawful would be for a full trial to decide, should the plaintiffs choose to pursue the matter, the judge said.

Lawyers for the Devon and Somerset Stag-hounds, the Quantock Stag-hounds and tenant farmers on Exmoor said they would challenge the ban at a further hearing if the trust did not change it.

Sale of Forces homes cost taxpayers £139m

Michael Evans reports on the criticisms of a controversial deal

TAXPAYERS lost up to £139 million when the last Government went ahead with the sale of military married quarters to a Japanese-led consortium, it was disclosed yesterday. The new owner will make large profits while the Ministry of Defence is paying £111 million a year to lease back many of the homes and is still responsible for their maintenance.

A report by the National Audit Office said the ministry's own figures showed that taxpayers would have been better off if ministers had halted the £1.662 billion sale to Annington Homes, the consortium which included the Japanese banking group Nomura International, Abbey National Treasury Services, Hambros Bank and Midland Bank.

Bruce George, Labour chairman of the Commons Defence Committee, described the deal yesterday as "insensitive, stupid and financially and politically motivated to gain resources for the general

election. As time goes on, this persistent folly will be more and more revealed."

The sale last year covered 57,000 married quarters, including 500 "high value" houses, such as 16 official service residences for senior officers. The sale price was between £162 million and £312 million higher than the value put on the estate by independent advisers Savills, based on continued military



George said deal was politically motivated

occupancy. However, the price fell short when compared with the MoD simply retaining ownership.

The report said that the sale price would represent better value only in the highly unlikely event of property prices growing by less than 0.5 per cent, and if the number of occupied quarters fell by more than half. Of the properties, more than 2,000 were sold and 55,000 have been leased back by the MoD for service families on 200-year leases, although the ministry will hand over about 700 houses a year for the next 25 years for sale.

The MoD was now paying rents, was still responsible for maintenance and management and would carry the risk associated with volatility in market rents. The Annington Group is forecast to make a real rate return of 7.5 per cent—in addition to profits from the redevelopment of released sites—compared with returns of less than 4 per cent from index-linked gilts. The ministry had compared the sale

price with the value of continued ownership, and estimated that the taxpayer would have been between £77 million and £139 million better off.

However, ministers had decided to proceed with the sale because the new owners would be better placed to dispose of surplus properties, and new funds would be released for urgent upgrades to the buildings. Annington's bid was felt to be the best they were likely to achieve from the market.

The MoD's advisers, NatWest Markets, had "considered that excluding maintenance would avoid over-complicating an already novel sale transaction". Handing over maintenance responsibility to Annington Homes would also have "significantly prolonged the sale process". In all, the MoD paid £11 million to eight outside advisers and agents to help in arranging the sale.

□ The Sale of the Married Quarters Estate (NAO, Stationery Office: £10.75)



Oscar Wilde with Lord Alfred Douglas, the cause of his downfall

Lover's last gift failed to relight Wilde's passion

By ALAN HAMILTON and JOHN VINCENT

A REMINDER of the homosexual love affair with Lord Alfred Douglas that led to the social and financial ruin of Oscar Wilde has surfaced in London a century after his release from prison.

When he left Reading jail in 1897, the Irish wit received from his lover a silver cigarette case engraved with a five-line poem and signed "Bosie". Lord Alfred's nickname. It is expected to make between £5,000 and £7,000 at auction at Bonhams in London on September 30.

To Wilde, a cigarette was the perfect pleasure. "It is exquisite, and it leaves one unsatisfied. What more can one want?" His relationship with Bosie may once have been exquisite, but things were never the same between them after Wilde had spent two years staring at that "little tent of blue that prisoners call the sky" above Reading.

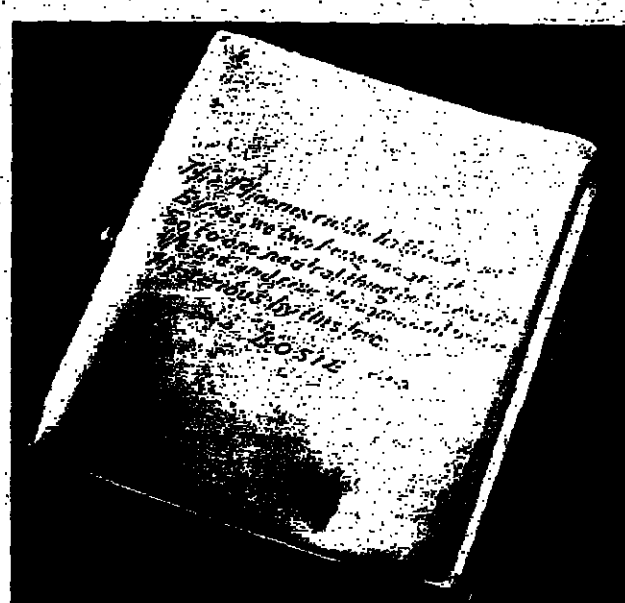
There seemed to be some connection, Oscar observed on another occasion, between piety and poor rhymes. Bosie's gift, with its obscure metaphysical verse, is thought to have been a desperate attempt to wheedle his way back into Wilde's favour. But it failed: Wilde decamped to Paris, changed his name to Sebastian Melmoth, and was dead, penniless and disgraced within three years. The verse appears to be Bosie's attempt at a pastiche of John Donne. It reads:

*The Phoenix, riddle hath more wit
By us, we two being one are it.*

*So to one neutral thing both sexes fit
We die and rise the same and prove
Mysterious by this love.*

Hallmarked Birmingham 1897, the case was recovered from Wilde's effects on his death at the Hotel d'Alsace in Paris on November 30, 1900. It was subsequently sold by the family of the hotel proprietor, Jean Dugouret, to a mining engineer, David Adamson. Now it is being offered at auction by Mr Adamson's great-granddaughter, who lives in Shropshire. She is also selling several other of Wilde's personal effects.

They include a six-piece manicure set (estimate £1,500-£2,000) which was, according to an accompanying note, employed to help clean Wilde after death, and his silver cigarette holder (£300-£400). There is much current interest in Wildeana. A questionnaire he filled in at Oxford University in 1877 recently fetched £23,000.



The engraved silver cigarette case given to Wilde

informative:

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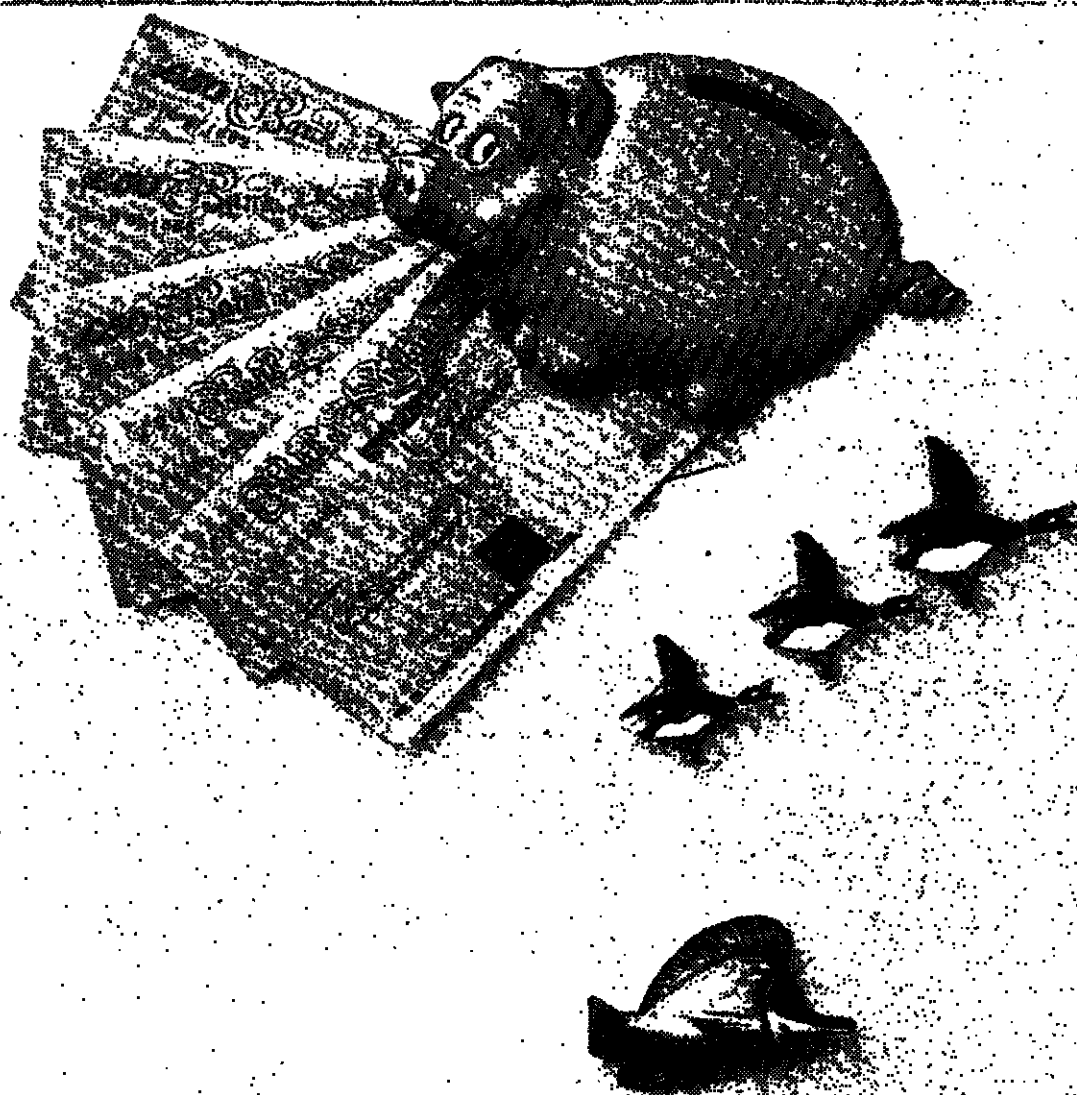
	From	To
All loan amounts	7.70% pa	7.95% pa

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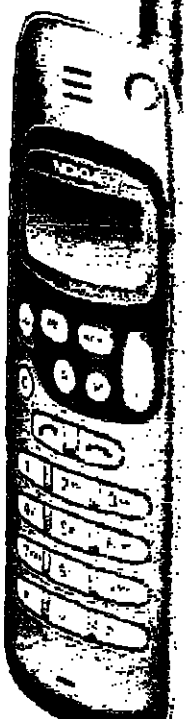
Opening times: Bank Holiday Monday 23rd Sept - 9am-5pm; Tuesday 24th Sept - 9am-5pm; Friday 26th Sept - 9am-5pm; Saturday 27th Sept - 9am-5pm. Opening hours may vary. Products and offers may vary on N. Ireland & E. Wales. Orders must be placed and paid for in full within 28 days. *The kitchen to this promotion are 22ft 6in deep, 30ft 6in wide, 15ft 6in high. Offers exclude installation and appliances. **Full details available in brochure. Pay by bill or hire purchase on 1st March 1998. Within conditions on request from Homebase. Bonhams House, 100 Bonhill Street, Birmingham B5 8DR. Homebase are licensed credit brokers. Loans subject to status and approval and are not available to anyone under 21 years. Example: A kitchen costing £1,200. Pay in 36 monthly repayments of £37.52. Total amount repayable £1,380.24 (26.6% APR, VAT included). Spend & Save Cards cannot be used on finance purchases.

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Reading tops the table for boys and girls

Schools are listed in order of the proportion of their pupils gaining the top grades of A or A*, based upon information supplied by them yesterday.

School	Can	A*	A	A+	%
Kendrick Sch, Reading, Berks	LEA Girls	83	28.7	73.8	
Chelmsford County High Sch, Essex	GM girls	97	28.3	71.0	
Colchester County High Sch, Essex	GM girls	98	25.7	70.4	
The Henrietta Barnett Sch, London	LEA girls	82	32.7	69.5	
King Edward VI Camp Hill Sch, Birmingham	GM girls	95	24.3	68.0	
Reading Sch, Reading, Berks	GM boys	104	25.7	68.7	
Lancaster Royal Grammar Sch, Lancashire	GM boys	113	27.5	67.0	
Wolverhampton Girls' High Sch, W Midlands	GM girls	91	25.4	66.5	
Lafayette Sch, Edmonton, London	GM mks	183	22.3	64.7	
King Edward VI Grammar, Chelmsford, Essex	GM boys	88	15.8	64.1	
Chilworth Royal Grammar Sch, Lancs	GM girls	124	25.0	63.8	
Newstead Wood Sch, Chipping, Kent	GM girls	112	22.0	63.6	
Tiffin Girls Sch, Kingston Upon Thames	LEA girls	118	18.3	63.0	
Queen Mary's High Sch, Walsall	GM girls	100	15.3	61.6	
Parkestone Grammar Sch, Poole, Dorset	GM girls	146	18.5	60.6	
Dr Challoner's High Sch For Girls, Bucks	GM girls	144	23.4	60.4	
King Edward VI Handsworth, Birmingham	GM girls	108	19.3	60.2	
Woodford County High Sch, Essex	LEA girls	119	25.0	60.0	
Pate's Grammar Sch, Cheltenham, Glos	GM mks	120	22.1	59.1	
Lancaster Girls' Grammar Sch, Lancaster	GM girls	95	23.4	59	
King Edward VI Camp Hill Sch, Birmingham	GM boys	93	22.1	58.4	
Sutton Coldfield Girls' Sch, West Midlands	GM girls	147	14.9	58.2	
St Clare's & St Saviour's Convent, Chipping	GM boys	94	24.3	57.1	
Ernestest's Grammar, Skipton, N Yorks	Vol boys	85	18.9	56.8	
Strathmore Sch, Belfast	Vol girls	123	13.2	54.7	
Tonbridge Grammar Sch for Girls, Tonbridge	GM girls	147	16.2	54.2	
Altrincham Grammar Sch for Girls, Cheshire	GM girls	113	24.0	53.6	
Westcliffe High Sch for Girls, Essex	GM girls	131	18.0	53.5	
Royal Grammar Sch, High Wycombe, Bucks	GM boys	186	15.6	53.4	
St Michael's Catholic Grammar Sch, London	GM girls	94	15.3	51.6	
Blue Coat School, Liverpool	GM girls	121	14.9	51.0	
Colyton Grammar Sch, Colyton, Devon	GM mks	102	16.3	50.1	
South Wilts Grammar Sch, Salisbury, Wilt	GM girls	120	14.0	50.0	
Torquay Boys' Grammar Sch, Devon	GM boys	132	16.6	50.0	
Dartford Grammar Sch, Kent	LEA girls	137	12.4	49.9	
Newport Girls, Shropshire	LEA girls	300	10.3	49.0	
Colchester Royal Grammar Sch, Essex	GM boys	98	12.5	47.7	
The Skinner's Sch, Tunbridge Wells, Kent	GM boys	108	13.2	46.0	
Dr Challoner's Grammar, Amersham, Bucks	LEA boys	192	11.0	46.0	
Aylesbury Grammar, Bucks	LEA boys	179	13.6	45.3	
Bishop Wordsworth Sch, Salisbury, Wilt	GM girls	118	15.6	45.1	
Tiffin Boys Sch, London	LEA boys	118	12.2	45.1	
Sacred Heart Grammar, Newry, Co Down	LEA girls	122	9.9	45	
Wycombe High, Bucks	Vol girls	233	11.4	44.8	
Calder Grammar Sch, Lincs	GM mks	90	8.2	44.2	
West Kirby Grammar for Girls, Merseyside	LEA girls	186	12.7	44.1	
Hockenden Grammar Sch, W Yorks	GM mks	119	14.4	43.7	
Rugby High School, Warks	GM girls	91	10.9	43.9	
St Alban's Sch, Herts	LEA girls	164	15.3	43.3	
Queen Mary's Grammar Sch, Walsall, W Mids	GM boys	94	13.1	43.3	
Ripon Grammar Sch, Ripon, N Yorks	LEA mks	109	13.5	43.2	
Southend High Sch for Girls, Southend, Essex	GM girls	128	7.7	42.1	
The Crossley Heath Sch, Halifax, W Yorks	GM mks	118	10.3	41.3	
Sir Roger Manwood's Sch, Sandwich, Kent	GM mks	97	13	41	
Aylesbury High Sch, Bucks	LEA girls	180	11.0	41.0	
Maidstone Grammar Sch for Girls, Kent	LEA girls	180	10.0	41.0	
Queen Elizabeth's Grm, Lincs	GM girls	108	11.5	40.7	
Altrincham Grammar Sch for Boys, Cheshire	GM boys	146	11.8	40.4	
King Edward VI, Aston, Birmingham	GM boys	90	12.0	40.0	
Westcliff High Sch for Boys, Essex	GM boys	129	10.5	39.8	
St Patrick's Grammar Sch, Armagh	Vol boys	119	7.5	39.6	
Haybridge High Sch, Hagley, Wores	LEA mks	148	8.7	38.2	
Malden Grammar Sch, Kent	LEA mks	175	11.0	38.0	
Armin Grammar School, Armin	LEA mks	116	11.6	38.9	
Devonport High for Boys, Plymouth, Devon	GM boys	128	10.4	38.9	
Watford Grammar Sch for Girls, Herts	GM girls	179	11.9	38.4	
Ballyclare High Sch, Armin	LEA mks	183	7.8	38.3	
Lady Margaret Sch, Parnham Green, London	LEA girls	87	10.4	38.0	
Sir William Borlase's Grammar, Marlborough	LEA mks	145	10	38	
Caldy Grammar Sch, Wiltshire, Wilt	GM boys	178	8.0	37.9	
Dame Alice Owen's, Potters Bar, Herts	GM mks	188	10.9	37.6	
Queen Elizabeth, Gainsborough, North York	LEA mks	156	8.7	36.5	
Beaconsfield High, Bucks	GM girls	136	18.0	37.0	
Sir Henry Floyd Grammar Sch, Aylesbury	LEA mks	144	7.8	37	
Nonsuch High Sch for Girls, Chesh, Surrey	GM girls	132	9.6	36.8	
Wallingford County Grammar, Surrey	GM boys	120	9.2	36.8	
Rochester Girls Grammar Sch, Kent	GM girls	114	8.2	36.8	
Canterbury Sch, Canterbury, Kent	GM mks	146	8.9	36.0	
Shirleydale Sch, Sheffield	LEA mks	184	12.4	35.4	
Urmston Grammar Sch, Urmston, Manchester	GM mks	146	12.0	34.9	
Hassenden High Sch, Herts	GM mks	117	11.6	34.8	
Dover Grammar Sch for Boys, Dover, Kent	GM boys	88	8.4	34.7	
The King's Sch, Grantham, Lincs	GM boys	124	8.5	34.4	
King Edward VI, Five Ways, Birmingham	GM boys	94	8.3	34.0	
Sir Thomas Rich's, Gloucester	LEA boys	90	6.0	34.0	



Army cadets from Cheshire on manoeuvres in North Yorkshire queue for the vital call to hear their results

TWO grammar schools in Reading yesterday recorded the best GCSE results for both boys and girls. The girls of Kendrick School topped the year's first GCSE league table, while Reading School recorded the best for boys.

The Berkshire town eclipsed its Essex rivals in Chelmsford and Colchester, where the grammar schools have regularly headed examination league tables. Kendrick's lead of almost three percentage points over Chelmsford County High School for Girls is the largest winning margin in recent years.

Marsha Elms, Kendrick's headmistress, said: "There are a million reasons why the

Berkshire has ended Essex's run of league success, writes John O'Leary

girls have done so well, but the main one is that we care for them and we don't spend all our time concentrating on league tables. They have put on fashion shows and musicals - if you had told me this was a year in which we would come top in the GCSEs a few weeks ago I would not have believed you."

She admitted that the girls did an "enormous" amount of homework but they were limited to ten GCSE subjects to stop them working even harder. "You can work hard here

and people don't take the mickey out of you."

The Essex schools had their own successes to celebrate, however. Colchester County High School, for example, boasted 28 girls with at least ten A or A* grades, a record for the school. Dr Aline Black, the headmistress, said: "We have had a dazzling year."

The league table of state schools includes most of the top performers in this year's record-breaking GCSE examinations. A full list will appear in *The Times* on August 30,

when the independent schools publish their results.

Girls' schools fill the top five places in today's table, reflecting girls' substantial lead over boys at GCSE. The Henrietta Barnett School, north London, recorded the highest proportion of pupils at the top grade. Almost a third of the girls' entries gained A* grades.

Laymar School, in north London, is the top mixed school, in eighth place. The school, in eighth place, boasted the best performance by a comprehensive intake. The school is now selective but was a comprehensive when this summer's GCSE pupils entered the school.

School	Can	A*	A	A+	%
Coloma Convent Girls' Sch, Croydon	GM girls	117	10.1	33.2	
King Edward VI Grammar Sch, Louth, Lincs	LEA girls	125	8.2	33.0	
Twickenham Grammar Sch, Maidstone, Kent	LEA girls	122	6.0	33.0	
Spalding High, Spalding, Lincs	LEA girls	144	6.7	33.0	
Watford Grammar Sch for Boys, Herts	GM mks	162	8.1	32.0	
The King's Sch, Peterborough	GM mks	180	10.2	32.0	
Kesteven and Grantham Girls, Lincs	LEA girls	163	6.2	32	
Fort Pitt Grammar Sch, Grantham, Kent	GM boys	123	9.0	31.9	
Bullers Wood Sch, Christchurch, Dorset	LEA girls	118	8.6	31.8	
Townley Grammar Sch, Basingstoke, Hants	GM girls	173	10	31.6	
Bishop Vesey's, Sutt Coldfield, W Mids	LEA girls	146	5.2	31.6	
Queen Elizabeth's Sch, Barnet, Herts	Vol boys	116	8.4	31.4	
	GM boys	177	10.0	31.0	

School	Can	A*	A	A+	%
Dane Court Grammar, Broadstairs, Kent	GM mks	188	7.3	30.3	
Canville High Sch, Canville	LEA mks	188	7.8	30.3	
Haybridge High Sch, Slough, Bucks	LEA mks	143	8.7	30.5	
Wilson's Sch, Wallingford, Surrey	GM boys	121	7.5	30.5	
The Royal Latin Sch, Buckingham	LEA mks	164	6.2	30.2	
Tunbridge Wells Grammar Sch, Kent	LEA boys	142	5.6	29.6	
Sir Joseph Williamson's Sch, Rochester, Kent	LEA boys	144	5.0	29.5	
St George's Sch, Hargrave, Herts	LEA mks	216	11.0	28.7	
The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial Sch, London	Vol mks	149	7.7	28.7	
St Bernard's Convent Sch, Slough	GM boys	91	7.4	28.3	
King Edward VI Sch, Lichfield, Staffs	LEA girls	127	5.0	28.2	
High Storr Sch, Sheffield, S Yorks	LEA mks	212	7.2	28.1	
	LEA mks	232	7.1	27.8	

School	Can	A*	A	A+	%
Ranelagh Sch, Bracknell, Berks	Vol mks	127	5.8	27.5	
Emmanuel College CTC, Gateshead	GM mks	155	5.4	27.4	
Chesham High Sch, Chesham, Bucks	LEA mks	170	5.2	27.6	
Lurgan College, Lurgan, Co Armagh	LEA mks	115	6.0	27.1	
Tipton Sch, Sheffield	LEA mks	217	6.9	27.1	
North Halifax Grammar Sch, Halifax	LEA girls	122	5.0	26.2	
Camden Sch for Girls, London	Vol mks	87	8.8	26.0	
King David High Sch, Liverpool	LEA mks	180	4.0	26.0	
The London Oratory Sch, London	LEA boys	122	4.0	26.0	
John Hampden Grammar, H Wycombe, Bucks	GM boys	119	6.1	25.5	
Marling Sch, Stroud, Glouc	LEA mks	207	9.2	25.5	
Stokeley Sch, N Yorks	LEA mks	329	6.41	25.4	
Oldha Sch, Skatby, Swanes	GM girls	188	5.14	25.3	
St Anne's Convent Sch, Southampton	Vol mks	182	7.2	25.3	
St Laurence Sch, Wiltshire	LEA girls	174	3.2	24.7	
Copthall, Mill Hill, London	LEA girls	174	6.79	24.7	
Newlands, Maidenhead, Berks	Vol mks	209	5.9	24.6	
Bishop Luffe Sch, Chichester, W Sussex	GM mks	221	8.4	24.2	
Jewish Free Sch, London	LEA mks	111	9	24	
Maiden Erlegh Sch, Easing, Reading	GM girls	111	9	24	
Sacred Heart of Mary Girls, Urmston, Essex	GM boys	93	7	24	
Adam's Grammar Sch, Newport, Shropshire	LEA mks	171	8.2	23.9	
Pengelly Sch, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion	LEA mks	94	8.3	23.7	
Ysgol Gylun Bro Myrdin, Carmarthen	LEA mks	171	8.7	23.5	
Bishop Harbert High Sch, Malpas, Cheshire	LEA mks	210	6.1	23.1	
The Cherwell Sch, Oxford	GM boys	148	8.3	23.3	
The Bishop Stafford High Sch	LEA mks	124	7.1	23.1	
Queen Elizabeth Central Sch, Carmarthen	LEA boys	211	6.8	23	
The Windsor Boys, Windsor, Berks	LEA mks	218	8	23	
Durham Johnston Comprehensive, Durham	GM mks	94	8	23	
Slough Grammar, Slough, Berks	LEA mks	104	4.9	22.8	
Ysgol Meirion, Yr Wyddgus, Mold	LEA mks	208	8.6	22.5	
Llanidloes High Sch, Llanidloes, Powys	LEA mks	225	8.2	22.4	
Marwood Sch, Alverstoke, Bristol	LEA mks	142	5.22	22.3	
Carlisle Comprehensive Sch, Newport	LEA mks	209	6.1	22.3	
Howard of Eghingham, Eghingham, Surrey	GM mks	229	5.3	22.2	
Malmesbury Sch, Malmesbury, Wiltshire	LEA mks	187	5.5	22.1	
Poynton County High Sch, Poynton, Cheshire	LEA mks	209	6.1	22.3	
Lady Mannes, Darby	GM mks	229	5.3	22.2	
Cowbridge Comp, Vale of Glamorgan	LEA mks	187	5.5	22.1	
Ysgol Gylun Maesyrhyf, Carmarthenshire	GM mks	155	5.9	21.8	
Holy Family High Sch, Thurston, Merseyside	Vol mks	98	4.1	21.8	
Boston Grammar Sch, Boston, Lincs	GM girls	111	4.13	21.7	
Brentwood Ursuline Convent High Sch, Essex	LEA mks	163	4.5	21.2	
Holmes Chapel Comp Sch, Cheshire	GM mks	154	5.2	21.2	
Fallbrook High Sch, Macclesfield, Cheshire	GM mks	154	3.4	21.1	
Brooke Weston CTC, Corby, Northants	LEA mks	152	4.2	21.1	
Sandbach High Sch, Sandbach, Cheshire	LEA girls	181	8	21	
Easton (City of Norwich), Norwich	LEA mks	202	7	21	
Walslow High Sch, Walslow, Cheshire	LEA mks	182	7	21	
Pamflett Sch, Garsington, Herts	LEA mks	182	7	21	
Almgar Sch, Alse, Cheshire	LEA mks	228	3.70	20.8	
Orkney High Sch, Orkney, Poyws	LEA mks	97	7.34	20.4	
Oxford County Sch, Oxford, Surrey	LEA mks	302	4.7	20.2	
Guilford County Sch, Surrey	GM mks	153	4.4	20.2	
Nalaise Sch, North Somerset	LEA mks	184	5.3	20.1	
John Taylor High, Burton-on-Trent	LEA mks	184	5.34	20.1	
Forde Sch, Muswell Hill, London	LEA mks	213	6.8	20	
The Gryphon Sch, Sherborne	LEA mks	180	6	20	
Sale Grammar Sch, Sale	LEA mks	188	4.3	20.1	
Beaumont Sch, St Albans, Herts	LEA mks	164	5.0	19.8	
The Castle School, Thame, Oxon	LEA mks	164	5.0	19.8	
Oadby Beauchamp College, Leicestershire	LEA mks	188	4.6	19.8	
Ormskirk Grammar Sch, Ormskirk, Lancashire	LEA mks	197	6.2	19.8	
The Campton Sch, Harnchurch, Essex	GM girls	211	3.6	19.7	
Roseberry, Epsom, Surrey	Vol Boys	123	4.5	19.6	
Trinity Catholic High, Woodford Green, Essex	GM Girls	211	4.8	19.4	
Parrs Wood High Sch, Manchester	GM mks	228	6.4	19.4	
Ilkley Grammar School, Ilkley, W Yorks	LEA mks	234	4.8	19.3	
Finham Park Sch, Coventry	LEA mks	187	5.74	19.2	
St Nicholas RC High, Hertford, Cheshire	Vol mks	187	5.7	19.2	
Erne High Sch, Coventry	Vol mks	182	5.74	19.2	
St John Fisher RC High, N Yorks	GM mks	190	7	19	
Stratford Grammar Sch, Manchester	Vol mks	139	8	19	
Rednook Sch, Dursley	LEA mks	112	5	19	
Bishop Of Landolf High Sch	GM mks	197	4	19	
Gods Sch, Chesham, Herts	Vol mks	180	5.89	19.0	
St Peter's High Sch, Chesham, Surrey	GM mks	150	5.8	18.9	
La Sainte Union Convent Sch, London	GM girls	130	8.25	18.8	
Yale School, Yale, Hants	LEA mks	143	8.4	18.8	
Forest Sch, Wymersley, Hants	LEA mks	228	5.6	18.5	
Thomas Mills High Sch, Framlingham, Suffolk	LEA Boys	198	3.4	18.1	
Caerleon High, Wexham, Powys	LEA mks	164	5.0	18.1	
St Dierne Sch, Wexham, Powys	GM mks	134	8.9	18.2	
Westland Heath Sch, Conington, Cambs	LEA mks	169	5.6	18.1	
Hinchingsbrook Sch, Huntingdon, Cambs	LEA mks	115	6.2	18.2	
The Netherhall Sch, Cambridge	LEA mks	277	5.3	18.1	
Bishop Stophard Sch, Kettering, Northants	LEA mks	223	6	18	
	Vol mks	132	4	18	

Girl of 7 gains her GCSE in computing

A college run from two rooms in north London has broken records again, reports David Charter

A GIRL aged seven entered the record books yesterday when she became the youngest pupil to achieve a GCSE. Nisha Santhirarajah, a C grade in computing studies, was also the latest extraordinary coup for a college run from two rooms of a house in north London.

Nisha, from Edgware, earned her place in the Guinness Book of Records by studying several evenings a week at the nearby Northwood Tutorial College. After six months' study, she took the examination in July, aged just seven years and four months. Her brother, Neelan, also took the examination, at the age of nine, and scored a grade B.

"Computers are easy to understand, but I found the exam quite hard," Nisha said. "You had to do two projects and answer lots of questions. I made a database of a library and did a break-even analysis."

She said she would wait until she was 16 before taking any more GCSEs, but has already made up her mind that she wants to be a doctor. She praised her tutor, Dr Ronald Ryde, the founder and principal of Northwood Tutorial College. "He is a nice teacher and makes it simple to understand. He tells jokes and

it is fun working with him." Her mother, Rita, a midwife, said she put Nisha under no pressure to carry on with the course or take the examination. "At various times we said she could stop if it was too much, but she seemed to really enjoy it."

Dr Ryde yesterday called for a university for young children to help them to realise their full potential. He also taught the previous record holder for the youngest GCSE pass, Sonali Pandya, who obtained a grade E in computer studies in 1993 aged eight years and two months.

The 66-year-old former lecturer at the Polytechnic of North London said he saw no reason why all children should not take GCSEs by the time they were 11. A levels by 14 and first degrees by 17.

Written off as a child as a low achiever, Dr Ryde taught in primary schools in the 1950s before working in the computer industry. He set up the tutorial college 12 years ago and it still occupies two converted rooms in his home and a couple of overflow community centres.

His method of straightforward small-class tutoring is underpinned by a belief that adults place limitations on



Nisha Santhirarajah celebrating yesterday with Dr Ronald Ryde, principal of Northwood Tutorial College, who taught her computing studies

children's potential. "The mental resources of society are leaking away badly," he said. "You must have faith in children. They can make mud pies one minute and write computer programs the next."

The theory seems to work. Year after year primary school children pass GCSEs and A levels at his college, with 42 children aged seven to 14 succeeding this year. Last year Alp Bora Tokar passed computer studies A level with a D grade at the age of 12.

"I sincerely believe that children are capable of making great academic strides if

they are motivated," said Dr Ryde, who looks every inch the eccentric professor with his cap, spotted bow tie and tufted sideburns. His pupils are not prodigies; they do no better than their peers in other subjects back at their day schools. Too often they are not being

motivated at school. The children we teach are an example of what the rest of the country could be doing."

Parental support is also very important, and is readily given to Dr Ryde's pupils by families, who pay £2,400 for the three terms needed to

prepare for GCSE. Nearly 70 per cent of children come from Asian backgrounds.

Dr Ryde has found himself largely ignored by the educational establishment, though he was delighted recently to be asked to give a guest lecture at a college in Crete. "Children

can do much better than we think. As far as I am concerned, students who go to university are the OAPs of the academic world, having passed their mental peak," he said.

Leading article, page 19
Education, pages 35-39

Pensioner succeeds at all his age levels

A PENSIONER who left school at 15 was deciding on his twenty-fifth A-level subject yesterday. Terry Tyacke, 71, gained a grade B in sports studies and grade E in philosophy this summer, confirming his position as the holder of the most A levels. His nearest rival has 17 to his 24.

He is planning to take either the new subject of discrete mathematics or general studies, depending on which is offered by Chippenham College near his home in Trowbridge, Wiltshire. He has already run out of courses at Trowbridge College.

Pam Shepherd, his sports studies tutor, said: "It is a theory course and he came into lectures with the other students, who are around 17. They got on really well and had quite a few laughs."

Mr Tyacke, a widower, left school at 15 with no qualifications apart from his entrance examination and became a dockyard apprentice. He took geography, his first A level, in 1972 to encourage his daughter Susan, who was struggling in the subject. He said: "I can't seem to stop doing them. It's a way of life now."

He gained 10 levels before deciding to concentrate on A levels. He has never failed an A level but slipped up on O-level chemistry. "That is the only blot on my record."

His A levels include one A grade, in business studies in 1987, and two Bs, in sports studies this year and principles of accounting in 1978.

Spine operation boy passes courage test

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

A 16-YEAR-OLD boy is celebrating passing eight GCSEs which he took while facing a spinal operation, scheduled for three days after the final paper.

Fraser Kennedy, of Dringhouses, York, needed surgery to help to correct Friedrich's ataxia, an incurable genetic disease which attacks the central nervous system. He collected his results from Bootham School, York, with his mother, Deirdre, 41, a nurse.

Fraser said: "I'm delighted with my results, though I expected an A in English and not a B. But it means I can go on to do my A Levels. I put the operation completely out of my mind while I sat my exams. I just concentrated on passing - which I did."

Mrs Kennedy said: "He's a very special boy. We are extremely proud. The operation went well, though he was in intensive care for a week afterwards." Ian Small, her son's headmaster, said: "Fraser is a person of great courage."

Among students of other schools celebrating their successes were John Chapman and Gary Florence, who achieved 13 A-grade GCSEs. They studied at Emmanuel College, Gateshead, where 90 per cent of pupils gained five or more passes above grade C, the threshold of an old O-level. Both boys recorded A's - the recognition given to performance considered a whole grade above A - in



Fraser Kennedy with his mother, Deirdre

seven of their subjects. John Burn, head of the city technology college, said: "Schools generally at the top of the national performance tables at GCSE are from leafy southern suburbs."

"Grammar schools get the best pupils by having them sit an entrance exam and can expect the best results. Now Emmanuel is up there with them and our students have struck a huge blow for the ordinary mixed comprehensive."

At Chilwell Comprehensive in Nottingham, Paul and Jonathan Litton, identical twins, passed ten GCSEs with A grades, nine in the same subjects.

A widow yesterday collected the winnings from her husband's bet on their son's GCSE grades. Martin Watford died of a heart attack in May, aged 44, three days before Andrew sat his GCSEs

at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Wakefield. Mr Watford bet £50 on his son's results and his widow Valerie picked up winnings of £450 after Andrew gained nine A grades, including six A's.

Mrs Watford said: "It was obviously traumatic for Andrew when his dad died on the Friday and he was to start his exams on the Monday. I wasn't sure I wanted him to sit his exams, but he was adamant that he was going to."

The youngest pupil to achieve A-grade success was ten-year-old Hugo Whittle, whose success was in mathematics at Clifton Lodge preparatory school in Ealing, west London. Two 11-year-olds recorded A grades: Jessica Parsons, of West Derby, Merseyside, in French and Oliver Taylor, of Oxford, in Spanish.

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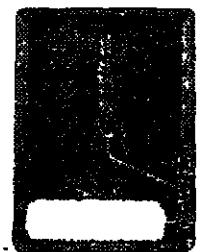
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Phone-free holidays fail the luxury test

Tourism chiefs say seclusion can go too far. Simon de Bruxelles reports

COLIN BATEMAN'S guests pay £810 a week to get away from it all on his sporting estate in the Wye Valley. Thirteen luxury self-catering lodges offer complete seclusion, with virtually every labour-saving appliance known to science — except for a telephone.

Now Mr Bateman's determination that his guests should enjoy their stay undisturbed has led to the establishment being omitted from all the English Tourist Board's official guides. Mr Bateman fell out with the board when its inspectors decided that Wye Lea Country Manor, near Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcester, qualified for only four out of five keys under its rating system.

The reason given was the lack of telephones in the lodges, something Mr Bateman claims is a bonus for his well-heeled guests, who come to escape the pressures of everyday life and indulge instead in salmon fishing, swim-

ming, tennis or golf. Mr Bateman, a millionaire, built the establishment seven years ago, after making his fortune in the West Midlands building deep-fat fryers for the takeaway business.

He said yesterday: "My customers don't want telephones. We cater for people plagued by phones every day

My customers don't want telephones. We cater for people plagued by them every day of their working lives and they're only too happy to escape for a while."

of their working lives and they're only too happy to escape for a while. I can confidently say this is the finest small-scale, high-quality holiday home site in the UK. I will not accept a four-star rating.

The committee that dreamed up these rules should be sacked for incompetence. I am being denied a top rating

because the place offers peace and quiet."

Mr Bateman, 53, insists that the criteria for the ratings must change, not his telephone policy. The board says that until he accepts its rating, Mr Bateman's £2.5 million investment will not be included in the official guide books. Yesterday the board said

five-star hotels to shame. The grounds offer a mile-long stretch of private salmon and coarse fishing rights on the banks of the Wye. The complex offers a heated indoor pool, floodlit tennis courts, nine-hole putting green, croquet lawn, gym, solarium, full-size snooker room and, of course, stunning views.

Mr Bateman said: "This now has become increasingly bitter. The tourist board tells me no matter how luxurious the place is, I can never have the fifth key unless I install a phone in each room."

"But they're missing the point. We cater for holidays, not business trips. People who have to talk to their businesses have mobile phones, but most want to get away.

"There's a phone for guests to use and most people just call to let their family know they've arrived, and then again when they go home. The facilities here are excellent, but phones in the rooms wouldn't get used. You don't even need

a swimming pool to earn five keys. Do they really think a phone is more important than a pool for people wanting a relaxing holiday?"

Mr Bateman, a millionaire who opened the holiday estate with his wife Sally, 48, in 1990, said that they had managed without being in the tourist



Colin Bateman at the country manor where he says guests can get away from it all in cottages without telephones

guide for this long and would carry on if they had to."

He said: "The tourist board people know they've got it wrong. That's why they're reviewing their policy."

A spokesman for the English Tourist Board said: "We are reviewing the system along with the AA and the

RAC so that in future we all use the same criteria. But that's not to say Mr Bateman will get his fifth key. There is no point having our criteria if we don't stick to them."

"Five keys for self-catering accommodation implies a home from home and we require extras like a washing

machine, hairdryer, and yes, a telephone. Describing a place as five keys but with no phone would make a mockery of the system. If Mr Bateman's business is successful he must be doing the right thing, and if his guests don't want to use telephones they presumably don't mind a four-key rating."

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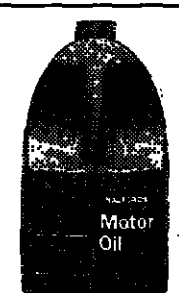
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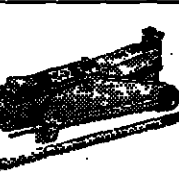
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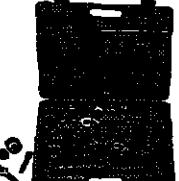
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cult man is convicted of trespass

A German member of a religious cult which invaded a National Trust beach was given a two-year conditional discharge by Truro magistrates after being convicted of trespass yesterday. Horst Dieter Bögel, 41, from Hamburg, had denied the charge. The evangelical group was evicted after camping on the beach at Loe Bar, Cornwall. Three other members were given conditional discharges last week.

Coach charged

Harvey Slater, 31, head coach at Northumberland Lawn Tennis Club, was charged with indecent assault and a serious sex offence against a girl under 16. He had already been suspended by the club.

Jarrow march

A 21-year-old student jumped aboard a moving goods train near Jarrow to escape a gang who had mugged him and forced him to walk four miles along the track at night to get money from a cash machine.

Racism fine

John Duggan, who wrote a racist and abusive letter to a traffic wardens' office in Harrogate, north London, after being given a £40 parking ticket, has been fined £250 and ordered to pay £100 costs.

Girls in tent fire

Two 14-year-old girls were severely burnt when a nylon tent caught fire in a back garden in King's Norton, Birmingham. The girls, who were outside the tent, are in a stable condition in hospital.

Bitter spice

The 17-year-old brother of the Spice Girl Mel C is recuperating after crashing the pop star's £35,000 Mercedes into a lamppost before she had driven it. Paul O'Neill suffered cuts and bruises.

Teletubby jobs

A toy manufacturer has taken on 18 staff to meet demand for furry replicas of Teletubbies, the children's television characters. Golden Bear Products said it had sold tens of thousands of the toys.

Bottom drops out of market in horse nappies

A NAPPY for horses designed to take the toll out of training has been abandoned during trials — much to the chagrin of stable lads.

The invention had been heralded as the most important innovation in stable management in years, likely to bring an end to the boring and back-breaking task of mucking out stables two or three times a day.

Stable lads and girls spend hours shovelling muck in the heat of the summer and cold of winter, but two leading trainers have decided that the nappy is not the answer.

Oliver Sherwood, a National Hunt trainer in Lambourn, has stopped using the reusable £250 nappies, not because they are ineffective or because they are unsavoury to clean, but because the weight puts too much strain on the horse's back.

"We have used them and, although it is a good idea, the weight of the nappy is too heavy after the night. It is too much for the horse's back," Mr Sherwood said.

The nappy is fitted like a conventional horse rug, with a plastic bag attached underneath to catch the droppings. Racehorses are normally bedded on wood shavings, shredded paper or straw and the droppings and wet bedding removed and replaced.

Peter Walwyn, a flat trainer who took part in the trial, has a string of 38 horses that are mucked out twice daily. He said he favoured traditional methods because of the cost.

He had to pay £120 a week to have the waste removed because it could not be part of a conventional muck heap. "It is costing more to have the muck taken away because it is treated as industrial waste, not agricultural, because the horse is not an agricultural animal."

The nappy was developed in Australia and has been successfully adopted in some racing yards there, where racehorses are not as pampered as their British cousins.

Racing, page 43

informative:

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£25,000 and over	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	4.20%	4.20%	4.20%	4.20%

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£1 to £999	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.40%	0.40%	0.40%	0.40%
£1,000 to £2,499	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%	3.40%	3.40%	3.40%	3.40%
£2,500 to £4,999	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	5.25%	4.20%	4.20%	4.20%	4.20%
£5,000 to £9,999	6.40%	6.40%	6.40%	6.40%	5.12%	5.12%	5.12%	5.12%
£10,000 and over	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	6.75%	5.40%	5.40%	5.40%	5.40%

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Godly nation took comfort from faith

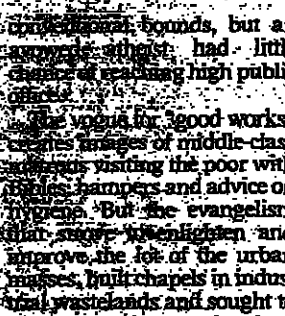
Our modern scorn for 19th-century hypocrisy does grave injustice to an era of altruism, argues John Young

On Sunday, March 30, 1851, the year of the Great Exhibition, a census was held throughout England and Wales to determine what proportion of the population attended church. Although the returns were never precisely enumerated, the overall figure appeared to be about 55 per cent, which many eyes now find disappointingly low. Today it seems astonishingly high.

We tend either to mock the Victorians for their credulity or to accuse them of hypocrisy, in going through the motions of church attendance because society expected that they should. That does them a grave injustice.

There were doubters in plenty, and many of those who dressed up in their Sunday best to lead their families to church or chapel did not conspicuously apply Christian principles to their daily lives. The greatest religious revival since the Middle Ages was undermined by hostility between those who followed different rites of worship.

But there was a general acceptance that Britain was a Christian country, that its laws and customs were based on Christian tradition, and that the pursuit of moral and spiritual values was a necessary antidote to creeping materialism. Agnosticism was tolerated up to a point, particularly among poets, artists and others seen to be outside



handful of public offices. While the Catholics celebrated by building churches and schools in the new urban areas, the Church of England had to come to terms with the fact that its main strength remained in the countryside. It began a crash programme of urban church building.

The Nonconformists, or Dissenters, attracted vast numbers. In Wales, the Midlands and the North of England, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and Unitarians preached judgment, damnation and the urgent need for spiritual renewal, a very different message from the comforting drone of evensong in the shade of immemorial elms. The Church of Scotland found itself abruptly torn apart by a splinter group

which formed its own "free" Church.

Disunited though they were, the Protestant Churches were at one in their suspicion of Catholics, who flourished in such cities as London, Liverpool and Glasgow, and in the Lancashire mill towns. Among intellectuals, the Oxford Movement, the conversion — or desertion — of John Henry Newman and the influence upon Anglicans of the Catholic revival rang alarm bells. The decision to re-establish Catholic dioceses was portrayed as an attempt by the papacy to undermine the monarchy, leading to a series of riots in 1851.

The Christian ethic prevailed at least until the onset of the First World War, which heralded a more cynical age. Many Victorians were undoubtedly dragged into churchgoing by pressures from their employers or the rural squirearchy. But millions derived comfort from their faith and went to their deaths hoping at least that a better world awaited them.

This series is now concluded, but readers wishing to pursue an interest in Victorian Britain can join the Victorian Society, which campaigns to save the architectural heritage of the 19th century. Details from the Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, Bedford Park, London W4 1JT (telephone 0181-994 1019, fax 0181-995 4895)



Majestic in death: the 18ft statue of the Prince Consort awaits regilding as the £14 million conservation of the Albert Memorial in London passes the halfway stage. It was covered in 1990 and work began in 1994; completion is due in 1999

Tomb that embodies the grand order of its age

By ALAN HAMILTON

VICTORIA and Albert's tomb at Frogmore in Windsor Home Park is the most private and peculiar of British royal monuments. Breath-takingly grand, it is redolent of the self-confidence, order and family values of its age.

Victoria had always wanted a mausoleum for herself and her husband, having seen those of her continental relatives. Within days of Albert's death in 1861 she had found the ideal site in a sequestered corner of the gardens at Frogmore House, less than a mile from Windsor Castle.

She summoned the architects who had created a mausoleum for her uncle Leopold in Sax-Coburg. They designed a cruciform in the style of a 13th-century Italian church and, on her orders, filled it with an anglicised pastiche of Raphael, regarded by Albert as the greatest painter who had lived.

On a massive granite sarcophagus, the recumbent marble effigies of the couple lie side by side. Victoria looking far more youthful than her 82 years at death — hardly surprising as she sat for the sculptor at the time of Albert's death, when she was 42.

Visitors will easily spot the join where the two sculptures were finally matched. They will also spot a bump in the marble carving of Victoria's shroud, roughly in line with Albert's knees. It is her feet, a reminder that the Empress of India was barely 5ft tall.

Above the main tomb, the central dome rises to 70ft, under which the deceased lie gazing at a firmament of painted clouds and stars. Splendid in ashes and pompous in the grave, the couple are enshrined in a stone model of the grand, unchanging world they set out to create.

The Royal Mausoleum is signposted on the B3021 between Datchet and Old Windsor. Car park available. Pedestrian access only from the Long Walk, Windsor Home Park. Open, with Frogmore House and gardens, on August 23-25, 11-5. Adults £4.50, children £2.50. Tel 01753 866286

Undercliffe lives again as a fitting epitaph to the dead



The past glories of Undercliffe have been restored

One morning in early July 1862, the bustling city of Bradford came to a halt. Shops and businesses closed for the day, blinds were drawn and citizens lined the streets, hats doffed, to watch a grand procession led by uniformed police and firemen. They were followed by councillors, aldermen, magistrates, a hearse drawn by six black horses, seven official mourning coaches and others carrying businessmen, clergy, doctors, and the editor of the *Bradford Observer*.

The occasion was the funeral of Robert Milligan, the first Mayor of Bradford and its former member of Parliament, who was to be buried in

the grandiose Undercliffe cemetery opened eight years earlier. Above his grave was erected a 20ft granite pillar surmounted by a cross — one of the most prominent of the dozens of extravagant monuments which have happily survived decades of neglect and among which the public are welcome to roam today.

Undercliffe can lay claim to be the most spectacular graveyard in Britain. It occupies a 26-acre hilltop site with glorious views across the city to the Pennines and epitomises the Victorian idea that the wealthy and successful should be honoured in death as in life. The monuments commemorate not only many of Brad-

ford's most influential citizens but the wealth of the city itself in its industrial heyday. With its fortunes founded on the wool trade, it was, in the middle years of the century, the fastest-growing city in Britain.

But rapid growth exacted a heavy price. The new working classes lived for the most part in abject squalor: long hours, low wages and dangerous conditions in the mills were compounded by inadequate food, overcrowded housing, filthy air and a lack of sanitation. The parish churchyard was reported full in 1836, and a further 10,000 bodies were dumped in ill-concealed mounds over the next 14 years. New cemeteries such as Under-

cliffe became an urgent necessity. The poor, except for the few able to put a little aside for their funerals, could expect neither ceremony nor epitaph. Thousands lie in unmarked mass graves close to the colonnaded avenues where the last resting place of Swithen Anderton, woolstapler, is surmounted by a scaled-down replica of the Scott Monument in Edinburgh.

Damaged by neglect and vandalism, the cemetery was compulsorily purchased by the city council in 1964 and has since been restored. It also has some new occupants, among them the late MP Bob Cryer. His modern headstone ironically proclaims him a "lifelong iconoclast".

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Russia clings to Mir as symbol of glorious past

WHEN two Russian cosmonauts today begin a series of difficult and dangerous space walks to repair the Mir space station, the fate of one of the nation's last symbols of its greatness will be in their hands.

To the critical eye, trying to repair the 120-tonne orbiting jigsaw may appear to be a futile and reckless exercise which endangers the lives of the three-man crew and wastes precious funding on a programme which has outlived its scientific usefulness. Over the past six months Mir's accident-prone history should have led to the Russians cutting their losses and shooting the 107 ft spacecraft crashing into the Pacific Ocean, its intended final resting place in two years' time.

But Mir is more than just Russia's last cosmic outpost, it is the world's only permanent manned station and, for Russians, proof that they are still a world power.

A song by Vladimir Vysotsky, the popular 1970s Russian singer and actor, described how the Soviet Union would remain the world's leader as long as it sent rockets into space, damned Siberia's rivers and dominated ballet.

However, in the 11 years

The space station should have been scrapped, but the Kremlin has nothing to put in its place, Richard Beeston writes

since Mir was launched, these and other pillars of Soviet might have crumbled. Communist rule collapsed and was soon followed by the Soviet empire. The military was defeated and humiliated by Chechen guerrillas. The scientific community has become impoverished by a state unable to fund it. Even its athletes no longer dominate the gold medals table and the Bolshoi Ballet is regularly panned by the critics.

While Russians may have grown used to the sequence of setbacks, not to mention the social and economic turmoil, the Government is particularly sensitive about losing the symbols of greatness because it has failed to find alternatives.

Even in last year's presidential campaign, President Yeltsin won re-election by concentrating on the failures of communism rather than what modern Russia stands for. The principles of the free market and ideals of democra-

cy have been tarnished by gangster capitalism and the growing disparity between a super rich minority and the impoverished majority. Today Russians only seem united marking the anniversary of the Red Army's victory over Hitler or when brought together by the death of a cultural hero, such as Yuri Nikulin, the country's most popular comedian, who died yesterday.

In its search for a new ideology, the Kremlin has flirted with the ideas of reintroducing the monarchy, strengthening the power of the Russian Orthodox Church and erasing the last symbol of communism by removing Lenin's mausoleum and burying the Bolshevik leader.

But the authorities are afraid of re-igniting the darker side of pre-Revolution Russia, with its anti-Semitism and imperialist instincts. However critical Mr Yeltsin may be of Nato, he still wants Russia to be a respected member of the community of nations.

Until the leadership can decide what kind of country it wants to build, the chances are that it will cling to the old symbols it has left. That means Mir, and its long-suffering cosmonauts, will continue to do their duty.

Arms shake-up: Mr Yeltsin yesterday issued a decree ordering a shake-up of the arms trade, removing the head of Rosvooruzheniye, the state firm controlling 97 per cent of Russia's weapons exports. It will be replaced by a new organisation, with the same name, to be headed by Yevgeni Ananyev, 49.

A second decree strengthens state control over the arms trade, giving the right to trade arms to two other firms and to specific manufacturers.

Belarus defies order to free Russian newsmen

Moscow: Russia and Belarus engaged in a war of words yesterday after the Kremlin warned Minsk it risked damaging close ties unless it freed television journalists from Russia's main station (Richard Beeston writes).

Less than three months after the two signed a "Union Treaty", the dictatorial behaviour of Aleksandr Lukashenko, the Belarusian leader, appeared destined to wreck the alliance.

The dispute erupted last month when three journalists crossed the Belarusian border to

show how poorly guarded it was. A second three-man crew were held earlier this month. They all were trying to show that slack border controls encouraged smuggling into Russia. The allegations angered Mr Lukashenko who threw them into jail, and closed down their Minsk office on Wednesday.

Yesterday the Kremlin demanded their release by the end of the week. Mr Lukashenko said he would not give in to "intimidation" and demanded a formal apology for the threatening language.

Nato targets Karadzic TV link

FROM THE WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

BRITISH troops with Nato in Bosnia Serbia, who yesterday were still guarding Banja Luka's police stations, may be deployed to take control of a television transmitter to break Radovan Karadzic's monopoly of the state broadcasting system.

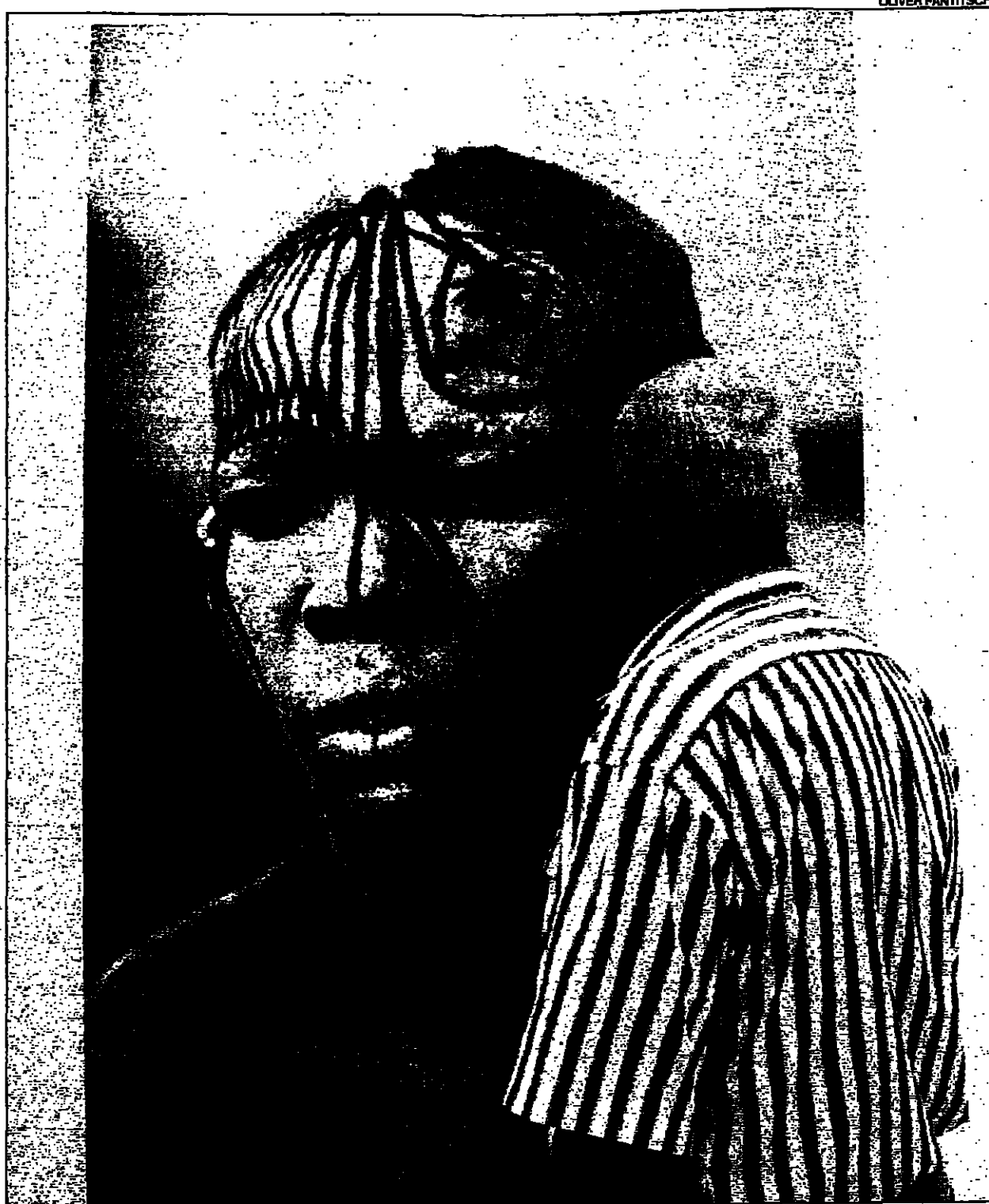
His control of the transmitter, in the Kozara mountain range between Banja Luka

and Prijedor, has helped ensure that many Bosnian Serbs have received a skewed version of the political gains made by President Plavsic over the past few days.

Srpska Radio and Television has failed to show a single image of the substantial arms cache found in Banja Luka's central police station, an arsenal that would have

enabled police loyal to Dr Karadzic to mount a coup against Mrs Plavsic. Instead the broadcasters have shown pictures of British "occupation forces" evicting Serb policemen from their stations. Television commentary described Mrs Plavsic as a "renegade and a quivering of the West".

Letters, page 19



Leni Riefenstahl's portrait of a Nuba tribe member dominates the show which opened in Hamburg yesterday

Protesters try to stop show by Hitler's favourite film-maker

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

DEMONSTRATORS yesterday picketed a photographic exhibition by Hitler's favourite film-maker, Leni Riefenstahl, in an attempt to stop the creeping rehabilitation of the director.

Frau Riefenstahl, who celebrates her 95th birthday today, has been virtually boycotted in Germany since the Second World War, because of the way her film, *Triumph of the Will*, and her documentary account of the 1936 Olympics were used by the Nazi propaganda machine. Since the war, she has concentrated on still photography: of Nuba tribesmen and women on the Nile.

No cultural official attended the showing of her photographs, the first ever in postwar Germany. Most Hamburg gallery dealers refused to touch her work, and

her photographs — stills from the pre-war films alongside her less political pictures — were hung in a rundown district, just opposite a half-way house for heroin addicts. Outside, demonstrators from the Auschwitz Committee protested against "fascist art". A banner denounced the director as "Hitler's photographer: 1936 Propaganda; 1997 Profit". Her photographs are on sale for about £1,200 each.

The controversy about Frau Riefenstahl, it seems, will not ebb despite her advanced age. "There is a minority which wants to destroy me," she said last night, "but they cannot wipe out my name. My films and books will stay on after my death." She insists that she was always an apolitical woman, and was never a member of the Nazi party. She was commissioned to



Riefenstahl: directed Nazi propaganda film

make films for the Nazi party and caused a sensation with *Triumph of the Will*, a celebration of Hitler's leadership as revealed at the annual party congress in Nuremberg in September, 1934.

The romantic depiction of Hitler — she showed him approaching Nuremberg by "plane through fluffy clouds" — and the torches of the first night of the rally and the thunderous shout of *Seig Heil!* — have made the film a classic of propaganda as well as of innovative film technique. Frau Riefenstahl was hypnotised by Hitler, saying that she "felt the earth opening up when she first heard the German leader speak. "Close up, his fascination was even stronger than on the podium," she said in an interview this week. "Hitler had a magic effect on people."

Vandals show no remorse over Rome fountain

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE three vandals who caused uproar both inside and outside Italy when they broke off a piece of a fountain in the Piazza Navona by the Baroque sculptor Bernini remained unrepentant yesterday.

The ringleader, Sebastiano Intili, 43, who did the most damage, said he would sue the city council for £4,000 in compensation because he had slipped and hurt his foot while trying to climb up one of the sea monsters in the fountain. "All we did was go into the fountain to have a swim," Signor Intili defiantly told police. "We always used to bathe in it when we were kids."

The three are all unemployed men from depressed Rome suburbs with criminal records for drug dealing and petty crime. The authorities promised yesterday to repair the fountain within a month, but the incident has sparked off a passionate debate on how to protect monuments in a country which is in effect a vast open air museum.

Francesco Rutelli, the Mayor of Rome, said more than 20

All we did was go for a swim. We always used to bathe in it when we were kids

million tourists visited Rome a year, "and we cannot militarise the city". Some Italian art experts had suggested using the army to protect works of art such as fountains and statues. The mayor did not rule out forming volunteer civilian "anti-vandalism squads" to guard publicly displayed works of art, as well as increased use of alarms and video cameras.

Mario Serio, head of Cultural Heritage in Rome, said electronic surveillance was difficult because works of art were often in or near historic buildings which did not easily lend themselves to modern technology.

Francis Haskell, Emeritus Professor of the History of Art at Oxford, told *La Stampa* that "even if you mobilised the entire American and Russian armies combined, you could not protect everything".

The incident caused outrage not only because it damaged one of Rome's best loved works of Baroque art but also because the city's fountains are regarded as almost sacred. Municipal regulations dating back several centuries forbid people to put so much as a hand or foot in the waters.

'Young' Pope flies into Paris dispute

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE POPE arrived in France for the start of a four-day visit yesterday, to be greeted by the President, thousands of young Roman Catholics and a bitter dispute over abortion.

The Pope, who is 77, appeared frail but cheerful as he arrived at Orly airport outside Paris where President Chirac headed the reception committee. On the plane from Rome he told journalists: "I feel young."

Several hundred thousand young pilgrims gathered on the Champ de Mars beneath the Eiffel Tower to welcome the Pope, as the American singer Dee Dee Bridgewater sang *Oh! Happy Days*. The highlight of the visit will be an open air Mass at Longchamp racetrack on Sunday, marking the end of the week-long World Youth Festival.

After travelling by helicopter to Les Invalides in central Paris, the Pope drove to the Elysée Palace through cheering crowds on his first visit to the French capital since 1980.

As the Pope touched down in France, dozens of protesters described by the police as "anti-abortion commandos" forced their way into Broussais Hospital in the capital. They were dispersed by police without arrests.

The abortion issue is expected to loom large today when the Pope visits the tomb of Jérôme Lejeune, who was a celebrated geneticist, a friend of the Pope, a Vatican adviser and a vigorous opponent of abortion. The French Family Planning organisation called the visit to Lejeune's grave "a

provocation". However, on Wednesday a group of 50 Catholics, calling themselves "young survivors of abortion" staged a sit-in at a hospital near Longchamp.

Despite dwindling religious enthusiasm in France and growing scepticism over church teachings on sexuality and abortion, organisers of the World Youth Festival say they are confident that at least half a million people will attend Sunday's Mass. "Never have so many young people converged on our capital," M Chirac told the Pope at the Elysée reception. "We will never forget your message of love, dignity, sharing and hope."

Only about six million of the 45 million Catholics in France attend church regularly and even before leaving Rome the Pope conceded, in a rare newspaper interview, that the French Catholic Church was losing ground.

Six bodies found in French silo rubble

BY BEN MACINTYRE

FIREMEN pulled six bodies from the rubble of a grain silo that exploded in southwest France, leaving little hope that any of the five workers still missing since the disaster would be found alive.

Among the 11 victims of the blast at the river port of Blaye near Bordeaux were seven employees of the cereal company Semaila, a lorry driver, a ship owner, a site overseer and a local fisherman.

The explosion, on Wednesday morning, brought one of the 100 ft grain silos crashing

down on the storage company office, burying the victims under tonnes of concrete and grain. Two more silos were badly damaged.

One injured man was pulled from the rubble shortly after the blast, but rescue workers said the mass of grain in the wreckage made it unlikely that sufficient pockets of air had remained to prevent the suffocation of those inside.

Officials said the explosion may have been caused by inflammable dust particles, or by gas, caused by grain fermentation, being ignited by static electricity.

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BY DAVID ADAMS
IN BRADES, MONTSERRAT
AND GLEN OWEN

If islanders opt to travel to Britain, the Government will

At one evacuation centre about 50 mainly elderly people stood patiently in line. Gwen Dolyn Farrell said: "Like prodigal sons we are returning to our Mother England. I was trying to hold-out, but I can't take it any more." She was unclear about what awaited her in England. "I have nobody there and I don't have any cash."



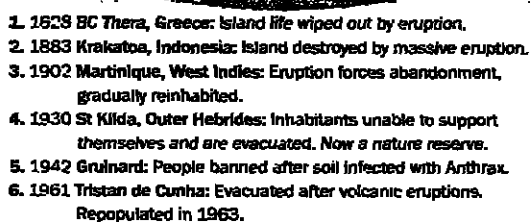
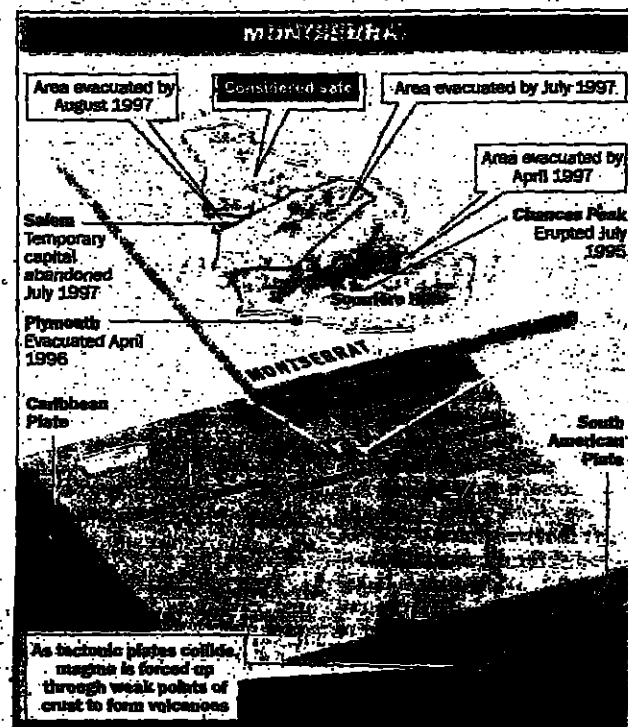
BY GLEN OWEN

Professor Steven Sparks, the chief scientist at the Montser-

Residents could enter the Virgin Islands with a temporary visitor's visa, he said.

Islanders caught in the path

The scientists point to the Canary Islands, where a series of eruptions has left large volcanic deposits — the most recent striking Tenerife in 1909 — without threatening its viability. They have built around the affected areas and offer them as tourist attractions. "In time, the Montserratins will be able to build on top of the flows," says Richard Luckett, a seismologist on the island. "All of the river valleys in the south have been filled in by the ash, but the climate will just naturally create new ones."



blames

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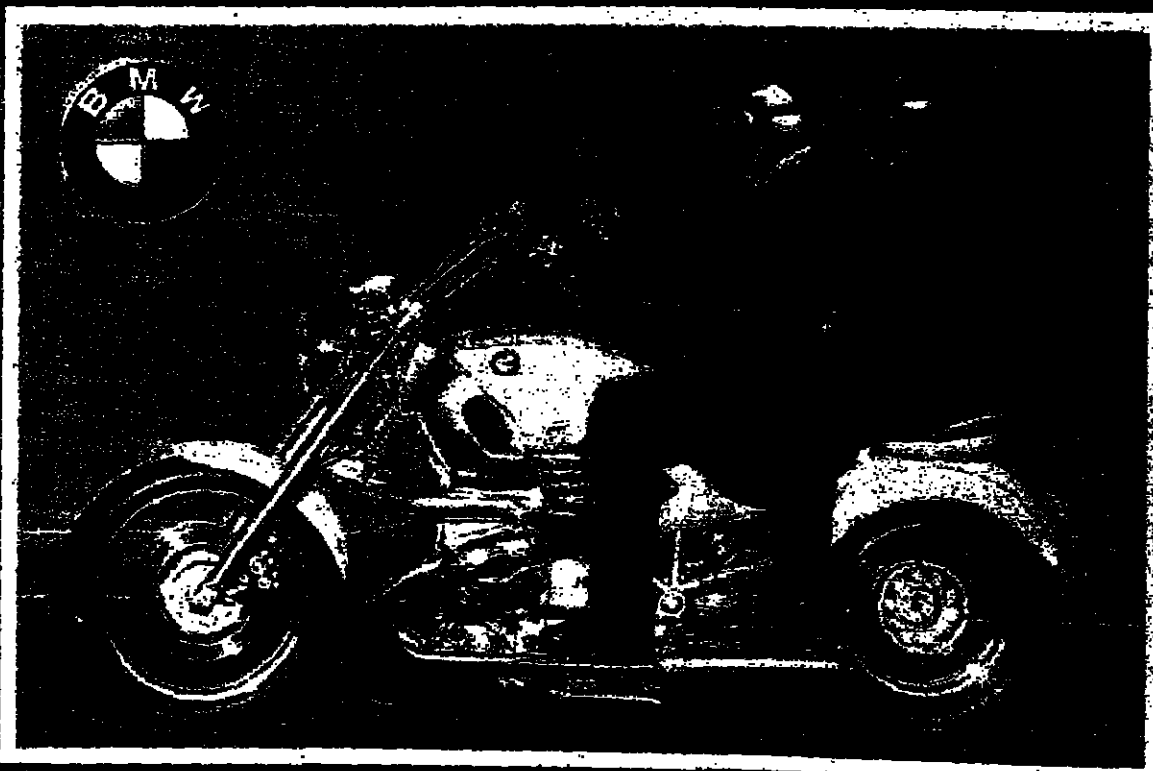
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THE TIMES

Clinton backer gained access to Oval Office

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE chairman of Federal Express was granted a meeting with President Clinton in the Oval Office when his company was seeking a change in American policy towards Japan and had donated large sums to the President's re-election campaign.

In the latest damaging disclosure involving irregular funding to the Democratic Party last year, Bob Woodward, the celebrated investigative journalist, reported yesterday that Frederick Smith met Mr Clinton for 45 minutes to discuss a dispute with Tokyo that was costing Federal Express \$100 million (£62.8 million) a year in lost revenue. The unusual tête-à-tête was opposed by Laura D'Andrea Tyson, the President's most senior economic adviser, but her anxiety was stifled by Mack McLarty, Mr Clinton's first White House Chief of Staff who had become a key link with business.

During an eight-month period before and after the encounter, the company contributed \$275,000 to the Democratic National Committee, suggesting that Mr Smith may have first tried to gain White House access and subsequently tried to influence the President on Asian policy. Mr Smith, in the course of the conversation last August, urged the President to impose sanctions on the Japanese

Government. He told Mr Clinton that Tokyo's closed-door trading policy had prevented Federal Express, one of America's leading package carriers, from delivering its cargo from Japan to other lucrative markets in Asia, including China.

Although sanctions were not imposed as a result, Mr Smith's easy access to the Oval Office with no competitors present has renewed embarrassment to Mr Clinton and is certain to provoke questions from Republicans when Congress returns next month. Mr Smith and White House officials denied any connection yesterday between the meeting and contributions made to the Democratic Party.

Larry Davis, the White House special counsel, said the general rule was to avoid such meetings, which in themselves were unusual.

"I can say with some certainty that Mr McLarty rarely set up meetings between the President and business leaders," he said. "We just don't know how this and other meetings came to be."

Mr Clinton understood that American business and foreign policy were being undermined by Japan. But the President told Mr Smith: "If I impose sanctions during the presidential campaign, they would think I was grandstanding for political purposes."

We are committed to solving this problem."

What has made the meeting even more noteworthy is that American negotiators are entering talks with Japanese officials next week to discuss flight restriction issues. Mr Smith claims that the United States will be presenting its toughest case to date and he believed it was a sign that Mr Clinton was delivering on his promise.

According to White House records, the President had tried to call Mr Smith four months before the meeting, but it is unclear whether contact was being established to solicit funds. Mr Clinton has said he made no fundraising calls from the White House, which are illegal.



Megan Smith, the first of 30 women, endures being yelled at by drill masters at the start of the initiation ritual at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. The first women in the institute's 158 years were among about 460 freshmen, or "rats", who began the six-month ordeal by enduring insults screamed in their faces on the "rat line". They were allowed in after the institute spent months in courts unsuccessfully defending its all-male policy.

Women face the 'rat line'

The students will live in spartan barracks under a harsh system of discipline designed to test their physical, mental and emotional limits. The institute says the process breaks down incom-

ing cadets and rebuilds them as model citizen soldiers. One cadet, Erin Clauch, 18, seemed on the verge of tears doing push-ups and taking verbal abuse. By last night, 24 hours after the training started, one woman had dropped out and so had six of the men cadets. (AP)

WORLD SUMMARY

London invitation to Israel

Israel has been invited to join the Commonwealth after a lunch meeting in London between Chief Emeke Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, and Moshe Raviv, the Israeli ambassador.

"The feeling was that if the Palestinians can do it, why shouldn't we?" a diplomatic source said, noting that Yasser Arafat had already applied for Commonwealth membership for his Palestinian Authority. Today's *Jewish Chronicle* says that the move should be greeted warmly.

Rwanda killings

Washington: Hundreds of unarmed civilians were slaughtered in Rwanda's Gisenyi region this month, probably by government troops, Human Rights Watch Africa reported. (AFP)

Drug turncoats

Washington: Mexican drug cartels are hiring former Green Berets and US counter-intelligence officers to subvert American anti-drug operations, Silvestre Reyes, a Democratic congressman, said.

Jail for King

Los Angeles: Rodney King, whose beating by police sparked widespread riots here in 1992, is serving a 90-day prison sentence for a domestic violence offence, authorities said. (AP)

Rare flu death

Hong Kong: A three-year-old boy has been killed by a strain of influenza never seen before in humans. The boy died after contracting the virus identified as "influenza A of H4N1 strain", found in birds. (AP)

Monkeys in peril

Rio de Janeiro: Police said a fire which threatened a colony of 350 endangered lion monkeys and destroyed a sixth of the Poo da Antas national reserve may have been caused by arson. (AFP)

Dreamtime rule

Sydney: A couple won the right to refuse a post-mortem examination on their child, 12, because his spirit would not enter the "Dreamtime" of the Aborigines' spiritual and cultural belief. (Reuters)

Double trouble

Sofia: A young newly wed Bulgarian couple will seek a divorce after medical tests showed they are twins. They were raised in an orphanage and adopted by different families. (AFP)

QC blames leaks on Singapore leaders

FROM CHRIS LYDGATE IN SINGAPORE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF



Corman: asked court to dismiss libel case

GEORGE CORMAN QC yesterday said Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister of Singapore, and Lee Kuan Yew, his predecessor, "shot themselves in the foot" by releasing accusations over which they are now seeking legal damages.

Mr Corman called for the High Court to "dismiss the case". He said the two leaders were responsible for the publication of police reports accusing them and nine others of criminal conspiracy and brought whatever damage resulted down on themselves. "The real loss has been self-inflicted," he said.

He said that members of the ruling party appeared to be seeking extra penalties because of adverse press coverage of the trial of the veteran opposition politician J.B. "Ben" Jeyaretnam. Mr Corman said that Thomas Shields QC, for the plaintiffs, had telephoned the previous evening to say he would be relying on newspaper reports of the trial to seek aggravated damages from Mr Jeyaretnam.

Mr Shields told the court yesterday that newspaper readers might receive the impression that, rather than Mr Jeyaretnam, it was in fact Singapore's democracy that was on trial, and that "behind the scenes, pulling all the strings, was the plaintiff himself."

Mr Corman's aggressive defence, in-

6 The plaintiffs made a considered and conscious decision to publish the very reports which they claimed had damaged their reputation

cluding Tuesday's three-hour interrogation of Mr Goh, has generated international headlines, spurred on by his suggestion that Singapore's leaders used libel suits as a means of stifling their political opponents.

Mr Corman defended his tough cross-examination, insisting he was "entitled to

canvass these issues in court."

Mr Jeyaretnam, 71, is facing eight libel suits filed by 11 leading members of the ruling People's Action Party, including Mr Goh and Mr Lee.

Mr Corman, in his closing argument, reminded the court that during cross-examination the Prime Minister testified that he was the one who had authorised the release of the police reports to the press, not Mr Jeyaretnam.

The plaintiffs, Mr Corman said, "made a considered and conscious decision to publish the very reports which they claimed had damaged their reputation. That fact was unknown to the learned judge who awarded them \$600,000 (£380,000) in damages," he said. "But it is not unknown to Your Honour."

Mr Corman argued that the decision "does render a claim for damages rather hollow". He also said that Mr Goh had been "economical with the truth".

Mr Shields presented a much less dramatic closing argument. Against the political backdrop of Singapore, he said, Mr Jeyaretnam's words were "incapable of innocent meaning". He will continue his closing argument today.

US court upholds sex offenders law

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A CONTROVERSIAL law that obliges local authorities to inform residents when a convicted sex offender moves to a neighbourhood came into effect across America yesterday after a federal court ruled that it was not unconstitutional.

Known as "Megan's Law", the statute has aroused interest in Britain, where less stringent Home Office guidelines on sex offenders take effect on September 1.

Megan's Law, enacted in New Jersey in 1994 and in all other American states soon after, has been on hold as a result of a legal challenge by civil liberties groups. Its enactment came after the rape and murder of a seven-year-old girl called Megan Kanka, in Hamilton Township, New Jersey, by Jesse Timmendquas,

a twice-convicted sex offender who lived in the house next to hers. The neighbours were not aware of Timmendquas's past. He has since been sentenced to death.

Civil liberties groups challenged Megan's Law on the ground that it inflicted extra punishment on convicted sex offenders after they had served their prison sentence.

However, the United States Court of Appeals, in a 2-1 ruling, said: "The fundamental premise of Megan's Law is that registration and carefully tailored notification can enable law enforcement agencies and those likely to encounter a sex offender to be aware of a potential danger and to stay vigilant against possible re-abuse. This is not an unreasonable premise."

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Auction puts price tag on 'summer of love'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THIRTY years after shrouding the city in a haze of drugs and incense, San Francisco's "summer of love" is to be remembered as much for commerce as love. Three hundred pieces of hippy memorabilia are to be sold off.

The main item, with a starting price of \$990,000 (£620,000), is 710 Ashbury Street which the late Jerry Garcia, lead singer of the Grateful Dead, once shared with the rest of the band. The current occupants, Michael and Frangine Filice, bought it in 1972 for \$55,000.

Other items in the auction include a Grateful Dead "medicine bag" used by original Deadheads to carry drugs (expected price: \$1,500-\$2,000), a nude photograph of Janis Joplin and two postcards from John Lennon and Yoko Ono to Huey Newton, leader of the Black Panther movement.

Leading article, page 19

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£ 10,000+	4.35	4.40	4.31	4.40
£ 2,500+	3.80	3.84	3.77	3.84
Below £2,500	2.00	2.01	1.99	2.01

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£25,000+	4.20	3.36
£10,000+	4.00	3.20
£ 5,000+	2.90	2.32
£ 500+	2.70	2.16
Below £500	1.00	0.80

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The art of breaking an engagement

Julian Champkin on why breaking an engagement can be a minefield of modern etiquette and potentially ruinous litigation

In the Victorian novel, the phrase "This man is worse than a murderer!" would ring round the London club. And what vile crime had the man committed? He had been engaged to be married; and he broke off the engagement.

Today, Kelly Fisher says she was engaged to Dodi Fayed. Mr Fayed says she wasn't. Miss Fisher says she will sue. Then she says she won't. It is all much more complicated than it was in Anthony Trollope's day.

But in moments of passion, even an honourable man can find that the flesh is weak and the tongue careless. The unintended engagement is a situation any man can find himself in — especially on holiday. The tropical night, the moon on the water, the sampans drifting, the cicadas buzzing like chainsaws and a woman on the balcony beside you... I seem to remember having been there myself, and only great strength of mind and control of speech prevented a possible Dodi-esque disaster.

In Trollope's *The Small House at Allington* — the entire plot of which concerns a broken engagement — the guilty man is cut at his club and assaulted at a railway station by members of the public outraged at what he has done. It is unlikely that any of Mr Fayed's friends will cut him if he has, in fact, broken any engagement. It will be deemed just one of those things. Meanwhile, Miss Fisher's theatrical and televised tears only mask the fact that a true broken engagement can still be as traumatic and hurtful as ever.

How is a girl to know whether or not she is engaged these days? And, having made the engagement, how does the man, or woman, break it so that both sides, and their friends, know it has been broken? And is the woman, as Miss Fisher apparently in-

ters furious. And so were large sections of mine. The guests had to be hurriedly uninvited, which was embarrassing for my parents, who had to do the job because I was too tearful; and most of what we had booked still had to be paid for.

But possibly what upset them most was that, two weeks later, Charlotte crept quietly off and married the man in a register office, in the presence of just two witnesses.

"It can be difficult to distinguish normal pre-marriage collywobbles from really not wanting to go through with it," says Judy Cunningham, director of London Marriage Guidance. "And as in a divorce, the feelings of guilt tend to hang around the wrong person."

He may have been a louse, he may have been untrustworthy, you may have discovered — in the nick of time — that he had a philandering record as long as your arm; but the remorse and the feeling that it is you who have betrayed him are not lessened.

Many people — male and female — chicken out of telling their intended that their intentions have changed. "It is probable that a fair number of marriages, happy or otherwise, exist only because one party lacked the courage to break off the engagement," says Ms Cunningham.

Doing it face to face is the only honourable way to break the news. But it is hard, and the "Dear John" letter has, understandably, been more



Jilting featured in *Sense and Sensibility*

tended, entitled to sue? This is a minefield of modern manners and etiquette — and potentially profitable or ruinous litigation.

A broken engagement is not unlike a divorce, although it upsets, potentially, a different range of people — and more of them. Charlotte James was all set for a big, expensive society wedding. "We had the church booked, the honeymoon booked, everything," she says. "It was only a week before the ceremony that I decided that I couldn't go through with it."

"He, I like to think, was broken-hearted, but his family



Kelly Fisher wearing the ring given to her by Dodi Fayed. According to *Debut*, it is bad manners to keep it

popular — traditionally to be received in some far-flung corner of Empire by a young man serving his country, whose stiff upper lip was permitted, for a moment, to tremble. These days, the telephone call seems less cruel, but is still safe, antiseptic and distancing. "I broke off my

engagement by phone," says one who has been through that particular mill. "I have to admit that it was transatlantic phone: the man was in America at the time."

"But the distance did not help: he got on the next plane home, and pleaded with me, on his knees." Which did not make the situation any easier.

A verbal promise is, as they say, not worth the paper it is written on. A woman knows she is really engaged only when she has a ring to prove it. Which raises the question: Must you return the ring if the

engagement comes to an end? In the old days, it was possible, by studying the fate of the ring, to work out who had jilted whom. Any newspaper announcement — "The marriage arranged between Miss Jane Smith and Mr Aloysius Jones will not now take place" — was always heartbreakingly discreet. No explanations were given, ever. The charitable assumed that the girl had changed her mind — weak woman was permitted, just about, that infirmity. The uncharitable assumed that the man was a cad.

But if she jilted him, she had to give back the ring — perhaps by throwing it at his feet. If he was the guilty party, she kept it.

Today, it is deemed bad manners for her to keep the ring in any circumstances," says John Wheatley, of *Debut's* Peerage, surely the arbiter of modern manners. "Some may feel she is within her rights to hold on to it if the man behaved in a particularly caddish fashion. But in such a case, she probably would not want to keep it anyway."

"But all wedding gifts re-

ceived from friends and relations and already dispatched must be returned to the donor." That is, after all, only reasonable. "With it, you can send a printed card, saying the ceremony is cancelled." Or you could try a less formal thank-you note, possibly along the lines of: "Aloysius and I are very fond of each other, but after mature consideration have decided that we are not the life partners each of us needs..." The phrase, "still good friends" could come into it, too — it is tactless to describe the person you were about to marry, in a thank-you letter, as a lying, shiftless rat.

In the United States, Ms Fisher seems to have failed to provide herself with the pre-nuptial legal agreement so

necessary to the imperilled young maiden at large in a predatory world. It would undoubtedly have helped her case. In Britain, at any rate, she can no longer sue for her broken heart.

The responsibilities of a bridegroom, from a pecuniary point of view, commence from the moment of his engagement," reported *Manners and Rules of Good Society* back in 1912 — which made the Breach of Promise action brought by the woman or, more usually, her father, a real and expensive threat.

Tiffing with the affections of an innocent wronged girl," was how Victorians would have put it. And if Mills and Boon historical romances are to be believed, the man stood a fair chance of being horsewhipped as well as sued by the wronged girl's enraged relations.

But the Breach of Promise action in Britain ended with the Law Reform Act (Miscellaneous Provisions) of 1970. That particular miscellaneous provision was steered through Parliament by Leo Abse, who did concede that one of its effects would be to allow unscrupulous men to indulge in serial wooing.

The well-prepared lady will stick to safe courtship. While he is on his knees pouring out those all-important words; get the ring, and get the proposal in writing. And while you are about it, carry the full pre-nuptial agreement, all made out and ready to sign, in your handbag. Without those, you will have little redress for your broken heart except tears.

Why the Rolex robberies shouldn't force us to be ruder

The English find their safest refuge in rudeness, argues Rachel Campbell-Johnston

There's been a spate of Rolex robberies this summer. Londoners must mind their manners — because thieves, apparently, will prey on politeness. They will come up to ask you the time, and then whip the Rolex from your wrist, before you can say "it's made in Taiwan".

"I hate to say this," says Detective Inspector Glenn Gavin of the Paddington Station robbery squad, "but people have got to start being quite rude. If you are approached in the street by a stranger asking the time, just say no."

What a dismal outlook. Londoners are already perfectly rude. They don't need official encouragement, least of all to protect a few Rolex wearers. They can manage to dispense with most civilities on their own. Take my average morning. After tripping over someone else's dustbin bag left outside my door, I dodge my way along the pavement, am shunted down the stairs into the Tube station, dislodged from the handrail, pushed onto the escalators, shoved inside a train and left standing while wily passengers — who got on much later than me — dart to occupy any vacant seat.

Even on a jammed Tube train in summer, there is space for small courtesies: the gentle camaraderie nurtured by shared affliction. But too often traditional English reserve has evolved into rudeness, because it is in rudeness that we find our safest refuge. This is especially true for women.



Politeness consists of keeping one's persona in place

and the next thing you know he is demanding your phone number. Even more problematic — how do you politely turn advances away? Women should remember, have a long history of coyness. For years it was expected that we should resist. To say "no" when we meant "yes".

Only last week a friend phoned to ask me out for a walk. Admittedly it was quite late in the evening. Perhaps we should have stayed demurely at home. But I arranged to see her at the park gates. A man beckoned me from a parked car as I walked to meet her. I know... I've heard it before... you aren't supposed to talk to strangers.

But he only wanted directions. "Can you tell me how to get to Marble Arch?" he asked. An odd question, seeing as the Arch — one of London's more prominent landmarks — was in clear view. But I drew closer to point it out anyway. "Have you seen you somewhere before?" he asked.

When you are fed the oldest cliché in the book — what can you do but smile and walk away? Five minutes later I was still waiting for my friend, and the man suddenly reappeared — this time without his car. "You smiled," he said. I dodged nervously behind the park gates. He lunged. I darted — the other

way. He darted too. And then we both drew edgily to a halt, the bars of the gates between us. "I only wanted to talk to you. You seemed so nice and friendly before," the man simpered. I vacillated.

Shouldn't you give every one the benefit of the doubt? He looked quite respectable. Perhaps he was lonely? "Don't you know?" I quavered at last, with all the pomposity I could muster. "A woman can't afford to trust. And a gentleman should never put her in the embarrassing position of having to say so."

The man looked offended and stalked away. English traditions of politeness have always consisted of keeping one's persona in place, preventing bodily odours, unnecessary wedges — or any other unpleasant effusions — from straying inconveniently into another's space. To show good manners in the modern urban world is merely to take this one step further and draw even tighter boundaries.

Isn't it only polite to say what you mean unambiguously? It saves embarrassing confusion on either side. My mistake was to smile at the man in the car, to send out mixed signals. "Just say no," advises Detective Inspector Gavin. It sounds so simple. But that one tiny word is capable of sending an average Briton into a flustered dither. Yet it is precisely this lack of clarity which is most rude — which leads to most embarrassment. Detective Inspector Gavin makes a quintessentially British mistake when he equates saying "no" with being rude. They aren't the same thing at all. When a stranger approaches you in the street to ask the time, you can tell him on, you don't have a watch, but still pass the time of day perfectly politely. It just takes a bit of practice.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

10

STYLE

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Cunanan offered to kill me

How did social cyclone Andrew Cunanan become a serial killer? Steven Zeeland recalls the man who was his boyfriend's other lover



Jay, above, with Cunanan at right, as photographed by Jeffrey Trail, below left. Trail was to become Cunanan's first victim; Gianni Versace, below right, his fifth and last, shot outside his Miami mansion, above right



Andrew Cunanan gave me my first Xanax. This story starts on the beach in San Diego. Andrew used to go there with my lover, Corporal Jay. One half-summer's day in 1994, Jay was heading back from a swim when he stepped on a stingray. Andrew was equipped to treat Jay's pain. He made him swallow Vicodin, a narcotic analgesic. When Jay came home to our apartment, his foot was still a little sore but he was smiling glassily. "Andrew's a walking drugstore," he said, adding that Andrew had at last revealed how he obtained at least some of the money he threw around so freely — Andrew dealt in prescription drugs.

"Maybe he can get me some sleeping pills," I wondered aloud. A few days later Jay returned from a night in San Diego's gay bars with a miniature Ziploc bag containing three lavender pills. "I told Andrew what you wanted. He said that you should try these. It's what he takes."

Xanax is an anti-anxiety medication prescribed to inhibit panic attacks. A few nights later I took one of the pills at bedtime. I didn't like Xanax. It got me to sleep all right, but the entire next day I felt... emotionally flat.

I didn't take Xanax the night in early May this year when I was told that Andrew was accused of murdering former Navy Lieutenant Jeffrey Trail, 27, Minneapolis architect David Madison, 33, and Chicago millionaire Lee Miglin, 72, in a cross-country killing spree. A few days later it was reported that Andrew had killed a fourth man, New Jersey cemetery groundskeeper William Reese, 45.

Then Andrew disappeared. Jay and I had left San Diego behind us the previous September. But still I felt astonishment, not anxiety. That was to change.

An accused man takes on a special beauty. That, at least, is what Kafka says in *The Trial*. I thought Kafka must be right when I saw photos of Andrew on TV's *America's Most Wanted*. Andrew was a lot better-looking than I remembered him — sneering, scruffy, unaccountably bitchy.

In May and early June the same photo of Andrew was featured in magazines and newspapers across the US.

The sequence began in San Diego's gay-friendly Hillcrest neighbourhood, with a 27-year-old who called himself Andrew DeSilva, but whose family knew him as Andrew Cunanan. Bespectacled, and slightly paunchy, DeSilva liked to dance with his shirt off. — *Time*

[He] laughed loud, bought expensive gifts for friends, and always covered the dinner tab. — *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

[Mary Ann Cunanan] thinks her son is supporting himself with money he got from wealthy older men. He was a high class homosexual prostitute, she said. — *UPI*

Andrew liked to give presents. In recent months perhaps hundreds of men have stared at their own mementoes of the "spree killer".

To retrace how my world overlapped with Andrew's, I returned to San Diego, one of his presents — a Polaroid camera — hanging around my neck.

I never recognised a kindred spirit in Andrew. Flashy, flush



'Andrew never paid that much attention to me. But he did once offer to kill me'



with cash, wildly exuberant and always grinning, he seemed, if anything, almost my opposite. But for the first year or two of the four years I lived in Hillcrest, I spent almost every night in the gay bars and clubs, hanging out with my own circle of boys drawn from San Diego's huge military population. My objective was not usually sex but to win the trust of men I could interview for my trilogy of books on military homosexuality. By 1994, I'd met hundreds of sailors and Marines.

Military boys make easy targets for all sorts of predators. Andrew drew them into his circle by showering them with money and attention. He pretended to be a rich former military officer. I admitted to being an obscure, broke author, but even that impressed them. We both courted

beautiful young men we didn't want to have sex with. And we competed for the favour of one young military man.

Jay was an adorable 21-year-old Marine from rural Wisconsin who attached himself to me like a burr.

I don't remember now exactly when, in 1993, Jay first mentioned Andrew, or when Andrew first came by our apartment to pick him up, but for two years Andrew was my biggest rival for Jay's affection.

"A social cyclone" is Jay's term for Andrew. "He could always move in and dominate any room."

Jay, too, insists that Andrew was not interested in him sexually, although occasionally he did observe other men try to pick up Andrew. "Andrew would just lead them along, and be all coy and

seductive. And finally, right as the bar was closing, he'd say: 'It was nice to meet you. Goodbye.'"

For both me and Andrew, paying attention to military boys had become a habit. By the time I met Jay, I was sick of the bars. Talking about sex had become work. More and more I wanted sex without any words. I withdrew from the scene, and stayed home with Corporal Jay.

But Jay wanted something from me other than sex. He went elsewhere for that. Reluctantly, so did I. In 1995 I told Jay about an especially beautiful man I'd encountered.

He laughed. "That's Jeff," he said. "He's Andrew's best friend." Later I was introduced to Jeff at a gay club. We shook hands; he looked at the floor.

This Jeff was Jeffrey Trail, and

he used to go to the beach with Jay and Andrew. "Andrew really, really liked Jeff," says Jay. "Jeff was given respect, and space, which Andrew didn't give to that many other people."

Arriving back in San Diego, I went directly to the place where Jeff and I had met. I am not authorised to visit Navy bases, but the guard shack at the entrance was unmanned. Out of habit I peered inside. There was an extremely poor-quality photocopy of Andrew's FBI poster, the photos all but unrecognisable.

Andrew was everywhere in San Diego, at least in casual conversation. Many of the acquaintances I talked to about Andrew seemed blithely unconcerned about the prospect of him coming home to kill them.

I know that there are many people Andrew wanted to kill before me. But maybe he would have granted me an exclusive interview, my last and best-remembered. Of course, in thinking this, I was indulging in the same drama queen silliness of Andrew-spotters nationwide. Really, Andrew never paid that much attention to me. But he did once offer to kill me.

One evening Jay returned from dinner with Andrew to discover that his car had been broken into. Something led Jay to conclude it was me who had taken a screwdriver to his trunk. He appeared at the door to our apartment and, to my confusion, wordlessly began packing his belongings.

Later Jay said that he had gone to Andrew for advice. Andrew told him that he did not know me well enough to say whether I would

betray the trust of his best friend. "But," Jay told me cheerfully, "he said that if I wanted him, he would kill you anyway."

The incident that marked the turning point in Jay's — and my — relationship with Andrew will not come as a surprise to anyone versed in serial killer narratives.

Jay: "We were down at the beach in the tide pools. There was a really big anemone. Andrew shrieked and said, 'I'm going to catch a crab for it!' So he went around to a rock, and there was a crab and it crawled into a little crevice. He started jabbing his keys into the hole. He had a very focused look in his eye. He just kept jabbing until the crab was basically mush, and there were little pieces falling out. He took them and fed them to the anemone."

That disturbed you? "Oh yeah." Why? "Well, there was a certain amount of violence. And he'd already shown me his gun... I guess I started distancing myself."

When I finally got Andrew's camera fixed the results were disappointing. The Polaroid Captiva 95 was designed as a "party camera". The best photo taken with the camera Andrew gave Jay is still the first. Shot in a bar (by Jeff Trail), it depicts the reputed psycho killer in Nautica jacket, his head pressed to Jay's chest, a smile on his lips that now, at least, seems to spell trouble.

● This is an edited version of an article in the current issue of *The Face*. ● Steven Zeeland is the author of *The Masculine Marine* (Harrington Park). His Web site can be found at <http://www.stevenzeeland.com>

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Does Blair know how to save the Union?

John Lloyd wants Britain to embrace civic unionism if it is to survive

The phrase "civic unionism" is sometimes used of Northern Ireland. It expresses a hope as much as it describes a reality: that political unionism can fully emerge as non-sectarian, open and socially liberal, leading its supporters to follow its example even as they affirm their wish — and right — to remain British.

It has a wider application. When used of the UK, it means that those nations and regions which make up Britain — however they have been brought together, through conquest or dirty deal, however much they were induced to stay in by imperial adventure or self-interest or fear — can together shape themselves into a modern union of disparate peoples. They would have different traditions and customs — some of these genuinely old — but would retain a commitment to a society in which their diversity was accommodated while common standards of civil rights and provision were observed. Why stay together? Because they had grown together, had invented new traditions, and valued the experience of the many in one.

But perhaps the chance has been lost for this. It is, at least, in danger. At a time when constitutional change is so pressing, it is worth considering the possibility that British postwar politics has been unable to grasp the nettle of constitutional reform. The Conservatives have failed by forgetting that conservatism means change; Labour has failed by following their suit until the Seventies and then performing a volte face to now institute a partial constitutional change which replaces an apparently unsustainable old order with a possibly unacceptable new one.

Northern Ireland is the most dramatic and urgent case, because violence is always threatened over a partition to which the Irish state — and Irish diaspora — refuse to reconcile themselves. Yet at the core, the situation is also unchanging: the will of the majority in Ulster remains for the Union, and no other conclusion than a unionist one from any form of negotiations can possibly be just. New Labour had appeared to accept this; the Prime Minister's May 18 speech in Belfast was a landmark in this respect, both for his party and for the province. But now there are doubts. Is policy running along the lines sketched in by his affirmation of unionism? Or is the imperative to get a ceasefire, and include the IRA into the talks process, determining a series of present and future concessions which will demoralise the unionists and weaken the union while never fully satisfying the terrorists?

Scotland is the presently urgent case, since it will vote next month on the establishment of a parliament. Labour's assertion of Scotland's right to self-government, to which the party actively and fully committed itself in the Eighties, has ensured that a devolved system of administration only requires the expressed will of the Scots people to become law. But the nature of devolution, and its confinement to Scotland and to Wales, means that no other part of the UK has a voice in a change which will more than marginally shift the way in which the whole is governed. Scotland's right is the UK's loss — the loss of an opportunity to consider devolution as a British issue.

The Conservatives, having once been for Scottish devolution, brusquely junked the policy under Margaret Thatcher and imposed conformity on politicians who had

once enthused about it. Labour, having been for it in principle but too split to be effective campaigners for it in practice, forced commitment on a reluctant Neil Kinnock when he was leader, saw the policy elevated to a solemn pledge under John Smith and left the matter to be executed by a sceptical but bound Tony Blair. At no point by then was there a serious discussion of the re-creating of central and regional powers in which the English might have been involved: hence their present marginalisation, in spite of efforts by Blair and some of his colleagues to make the process acceptable to the majority nation.

Wales is the mystery. Does it want the devolutionary plan on offer — and if it does, will it resent receiving an assembly with fewer powers than the Scots one because it has been less determined to get self-government than the Scots? Many — including many within the Labour Party — still have the same dismissive attitude to devolution as Neil Kinnock used to show. Will Wales be roused to vote for a mild mannered assembly? or find it meaningless or toothless?

Reform of the Lords, if and when it comes, will replace a partly hereditary chamber with a fully appointed one. No question that a system in which ancient peers have a purchase on our laws is absurd.

But an appointed chamber increases central power even as devolution to Scotland and Wales is supposed to take from it. A senate drawn from the regions of Britain would be a counterweight to the tendencies to separatism; but though there are indications that the appointed House is seen as a temporary expedient, neither it nor any other system has been canvassed by new Labour. The net effect is that the power of London increases over England, wanes over Scotland and Wales, is ambiguous over Northern Ireland.

Scotland's right to govern itself is the UK's loss

At the constitutional apex sits a monarchy in a parlous state. The succession of Charles III to the throne of Elizabeth II will go ahead — if it goes ahead — under the gaze of a public which had the fairytale princess line fed to it in the early Eighties, and is unlikely to wish to be fooled again. Royal marriage had been held to bestow dignity on princesses (and princes); the vast majority which supported the monarchy has seen dignity sliced away by women voracious for money and fame. Can the new king be a figure to whom clergy, parliamentarians and military swear allegiance with a sense they are affirming a meaningful oath? Here is a part of our constitution for which, it would seem, a reform is most needed: yet here new Labour has pronounced the deepest silence coupled with a show of the deepest public respect — debate being stilled, even though the Windsors occasionally intimate they may themselves be open to proposals for change.

Change through conscious invention of new institutions, relationships and mechanisms is the inescapable contemporary state: new Labour's strength, and success, lies in grasping that fact more fully than a once-dynamic Tory party. But the renovation of the Union, now so urgent, is in danger of leaving out England. How to include it must become part of the project.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the New Statesman.

Watches are convenient but vulnerable. Derwent May celebrates the timepieces that unite us

What can be done about the spate of thefts of Rolex watches, snatched from their wearers' wrists even when they are sitting peacefully over their Caesar salad in an expensive restaurant? One bright idea comes from America. A watch firm there has developed a technique for implanting watches into a person's wrist, with the illuminated figures shining through the transparent skin. However, that would be an extreme solution for most of us. A better one would be to give up watches, and go back to the use of public clocks. But where are they?

Samuel Pepys could not afford a watch until he was 50, and pleased as Punch he was when he finally got one. However, nowadays almost everybody has a watch of some kind, and the melancholy decline in the number of public clocks is directly due to that. Public benefactors who might once have put up a clock in a town square no longer feel that their generosity will be appreciated, and shops know that few passers-by are going to look up at their clock for the time, and be tempted to come in and buy.

One notable restoration recently was the great four-faced clock, set in red and gold cast-iron, at Waterloo Station. But the outstanding provider of clocks in the capital today is the London Underground.

The privatisation of the public clock

In English Heritage stations, mainly on the Northern Line, they are keeping in good order the large round clocks called American self-winders that were installed in the early days of the Underground, when it was still a network of private lines partly owned by an American railway company.

The majority of clocks now to be seen on Underground stations, however, are those panels of illuminated yellow numbers that click their way through the minutes, and are called Liquid Crystal Display clocks. They are all controlled from a single centre, and for the past few years have been useful and reliable.

Unfortunately, the first generation of them is now wearing out, and whatever time they are showing, layers of other glimmering, ghostly numbers are visible behind the "4.29" or whatever the time is, making it very hard to read. A spokesman for the Underground

tells me these clocks are all in process of replacement, and by the end of the financial year a new set of LCDs will have taken their place. One can already be seen at Green Park station on the Piccadilly Line. Incidentally, I also learnt from the Underground why the clocks on many stations are at the end of the platform, necessitating very often a walk to see what they are saying. It is because they are meant primarily to help the drivers. As the drivers pull up in a station, they can take in the time without glancing down at their watch, so taking their eyes off the track. A good theory, anyway.

But I am not satisfied with those LCDs, because — apart from their dull clicking — they are silent. It is worth remembering that "clock" originally meant "bell" or "chime", as in French *cloche*. I have just been staying near a village on Lake Como, where a church clock not

only chimes the hours, but also the quarters and the halves. At quarter past ten you get all the ten strokes you had 15 minutes before, plus a single chime on a different, lighter bell. At half past and quarter to, you get the full chimes for the hour, and a final two or three light chimes, respectively. You can hear the same wealth of sounds from the town square clock at Ravenna.

Such public clocks are more than just useful. I am sure that they help to bind people together in the most desirable way — namely, through their imaginations. As the clock chimes, people think of others who are also hearing it, and of what they are doing. They are less alone, and more outgoing in their thoughts. Even clocks that have stopped can be a source of common interest and pleasure — think of Rupert Brooke's church clock at Grant-

chester, standing for ever at ten to three, or the church clock at St Ives, known to all readers of that gentle derygman-diary Kibbert, which was constantly stopping because of the dreadful smell of fish in the town. I always think it a sacrifice when on BBC Radio News they slip the headlines in breathlessly between the chimes of Big Ben. One just wants to listen to the great bell ringing round the world.

In fact the scarcity of public clocks contributes at present, when the Rolex robberies are going on, to precisely the opposite state of affairs — a general distrust and fear. Once, people were happy to oblige when they were asked the time by a stranger. Now a perfectly innocent request is treated with suspicion. Is it the inquirer's intention to snatch the watch as soon as the wrist is lifted?

So, developers and benefactors, bring back the public clock! It was a curious revelation recently by — even more curiously — the Ministry of Defence newsletter, that when John Major moved into the private apartments of No.10, he had all the striking and chiming clocks removed. His successor has reportedly brought them all back again. Let us hope that is a good omen for us clock-lovers.

Philip Howard is away.

Out of Africa's horror

The dark continent's best hope might be to revive a multi-national mandate

In Lusaka... Africans were not allowed in most European shops, but had to use hatchways. They stood in line out in the dust or rain in dark passageways on the side of or behind the shop, where a kind of peephole with a small ledge was built into the wall. Through this hatch they called out their wants, and merchandise was (if the white salesman inside chose to pay attention) pushed out to them through the slot. Africans were not allowed to touch or handle articles... they had no opportunity for looking around or making any kind of choice.

The author and traveller John Gunther was describing, in his book *Inside Africa*, a British colony, Northern Rhodesia, in the early 1950s. I lived in Southern Rhodesia and remember what we used to call "the colour bar" well. So I begin this, the last of three articles, by repeating that it is from no great height that Africa has fallen: there was no golden age of colonialism, no time of harmony, justice and prosperity for all. Nostalgia gets us nowhere.

But it is worth looking back, and for this reason. At the time when the European colonial powers began quitting, things were getting better in Africa, and had been for some time. Since the European powers quit, they have been getting worse and are still getting worse. I have tried to demonstrate the extent of the decline.

Any reasonable observer must conclude that African nations have not governed themselves well. The record is little short of disastrous. Why? It was fashionable at first among European liberals to ascribe African failure as a consequence of white racism. But 40 years have now passed since decolonisation began and across much of the continent there are no white people left. Colonialism fades into a memory. Yet still African languishes. It is hard to sustain the view that the European legacy is now what holds the continent back. Racism and colonialism have not stopped the new Asian economies.

An allied view is that Western economic exploitation of the whole continent has permanently crippled the African economies. But other countries have survived exploitation, and prospered: there is no evidence that Africa has been worse plundered than other continents. Indeed, her problem now may actually be lack of economic exploitation: investors and traders

have been frightened off. Another view — rarely printed but quite insistently held by a certain type of white person — is that Africans are permanently incapable of governing themselves. This would have to arise from some sort of genetic difference, or an acquired cultural outlook so deeply ingrained as to be in practice ineradicable. But black politicians operate successfully outside Africa and, besides, the evidence of my own senses is that differences on this scale do not exist. My secondary education in a mixed-race school in Swaziland never suggested any great gulf in ability or outlook. I reject that view.

Unless I am overlooking other explanations of African failure, we are left with only one: that African countries could govern themselves well, but have not yet learnt how. This is sometimes asserted, coupled with the opinion that experience will teach them — is teaching them — and so what we see, however dismaying, is a "learning curve". Time will cure all.

That is not self-evident. If what African administrations lacked was information or know-how, then it might be the case that experience (and Western assistance) could provide it. But if what is missing are the habits of diligence, probity, tolerance and trust in public administration, then there is no more reason to suppose that if we wait long enough these habits will grow, than to suppose that a generation abused by its parents will treat its own children better. On the contrary. Brutal, corrupt, slovenly government is self-reinforcing. A certain minimum standard of ingrained good order — a floor if you like — must be achieved before adequate administration becomes self-sustaining and the whole structure will stand.

I suggest that Europe left Africa before these habits had become ingrained. We deceived ourselves into believing that it was enough to create structures of administration, appoint administrators, and leave written instructions. But the administrative values that colonial powers had begun to inculcate were insufficiently deep-rooted and have withered. There is no reason to believe that they must revive of their own accord, or will be "learned" from experience or know-how aid.



There is no reason to believe that a continent, which has deteriorated in the past 40 years, must improve in the next 50.

If Africa is to regain her foothold it is not enough to send aid, which will be squandered, or teachers, who will be ignored. It is time we began to think seriously about reoccupying the most hopeless and desperate parts of the continent and testing the possibilities of installing sound administrations equipped to teach the habits of government: a responsibility to which the European powers were only beginning to awake when, having changed our minds about empire, we quit.

It will happen anyway — is happening already. In parts of Zaire, multi-national mineral companies have been effectively running states within a state. In Nigeria, there are areas within which Shell's writ, not that of Lagos, runs. But the flaw in this arrangement is obvious. Left to its own devices, Western capital will cherry-pick, establishing what administration it needs to extract resources, and leaving the rest to rot. In that respect, Queen Victoria's century was more benign: in

return for a general franchise, the British South Africa Company was made to accept exacting responsibilities across Central Africa. Today De Beers, RTZ and Lonrho owe duties only to their shareholders.

To suggest that world opinion would permit Western powers to re-colonise for themselves significant tracts in Africa is fanciful, though not beyond imagination. For Britain to administer Sierra Leone again might be undemocratic, yet the peoples of that territory would get better government. What might be less fanciful is an idea proposed two years ago in a speech by Leo Tindemans. The former Belgian Foreign Minister spoke tentatively about reviving something akin to the United Nations mandate. The speech was greeted with horror and he has not revisited the idea. Perhaps he regrets talking about it.

But it was brave, and true. The advantage of a multi-national mandate is that it need not be a wholly "white" initiative; countries like South Africa and India could be involved in steering and overseeing mandating powers. But day-to-day administration might best be handled by a single power, mandated to govern, rewarded with an agreed share in revenues, and supervised by the mandating authority. Doubtless it is a fantasy, to

suppose that African countries with the rotting superstructure of a once-adequate administration still in place — countries like Kenya or Nigeria — would wish to touch such an experiment. But it is pure fantasy to suppose that places like Burundi, Rwanda or Eastern Zaire might prefer the imposition of a well managed administration driven by a consortium of developed nations, to the hopeless savagery of occupation by despots. One way or another we shall get colonialism in Africa as those who can buy arms and feed armies overrun those who cannot. Does it make it more acceptable, that occupier and occupied are both black?

I write this with a weary feeling that too many who call themselves "enlightened" will suppose the idea unthinkable for it to have any chance of gaining ground. I simply ask whether to condemn the rising generations in Africa to the misery that has been the fate of the generation which is dying — either on the grounds that the alternative is unthinkable, or on some theoretical speculation that all this murder, pillage and starvation is a sort of cosmo-historical school in which "Africa" is "learning" to cope — may comfort itself with the name of Western liberalism, but amounts to a looking-away in which there is also a kind of cruelty.

Pink Peke

DAME BARBARA CARTLAND's male sleeping companion of more than a decade has passed away. Mimi, her beloved Pekinese, was deemed to be too old to survive a vital operation on his jaw and was put down last week. He was 13.

Mimi was as much a part of Dame Barbara's life and public image as pink chiffon and dark romantic heroes. She has gone to her Scottish retreat for some quiet

reflection after burying him in the garden of her Hertfordshire home. "I can't talk about it without bursting into tears. He always went everywhere with me," she says. "He slept with me. He was so sweet. Whenever I went, he went, too. If I walked across the room, he would follow."

Mimi had his own pink mattress in her bedroom but always slept on her bed. Last summer when it was again very hot, he left her bed for the first time to sleep in the fireplace and enjoy the benefit of a through draught.

Dame Barbara, who at 96 has outlived many pets as well as two husbands, still has a black Labrador for company but intends to get another Pekinese. However, she insists that she must have a white male like Mimi, but they are a rare commodity. "They are frightfully expensive because they are so rare," she says. It is to be hoped that she and her new friend are united soon.

Remarkably immune to the soaring temperatures in London

are the staff of Tatler magazine, who have decreed that summer has ended. As guests sweltered at a Ritz garden party the other day, the magazine's Editor, Jane Procter, declared airily: "Summer finished for Britons ten days ago. The Med (the Mediterranean season, apparently, when the cast of Tatler decamp to their yachts) is over." Happily, Miss Procter's honied complexion suggests that she managed a few days sprawled on the deck of a Sigma 38 before bringing



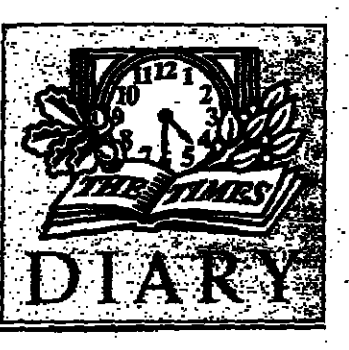
the curtain down on the holiday season.

Hot spot

AN award for bravura must go to the Montserrat Tourist Board, which is doggedly still trying to woo visitors to the island even as its inhabitants are abandoning their homes and fleeing for their lives. A reader draws my attention to the board's Internet website which boasts that while some tourist attractions are inaccessible, there is still a "designated safe area" and plenty to do. "The exciting new attraction is the most interesting volcano in the world, the recently awakened Soufriere Volcano. If you're lucky, you can see a wonderful glow at night — it's truly unique!" I'm sure it is.

Sweet song

JOHN PRESCOTT has revealed the origin of his affection for river buses, which he wants to see reintroduced to the Thames as part of his integrated transport policy. The Deputy Prime Minister's wife, the lovely Pauline, used to launch them when they first graced the river be-



fore going out of business some years ago. He says this personal experience has given him a vital insight into a design flaw in the original buses. "My wife launched them at St Katharine's Dock. But they were aluminium. They kept throwing the champagne bottles at them and they kept bouncing back."

Root cause

FOLLOWING England's pitiful performance at The Oval yesterday there will no doubt be much soul-searching about the future of the English game. However, as Sir Garfield Sobers discovered yesterday, simple apathy is probably the root of the problem.

The West Indian legend, whose record Test match score of 365 stood for 36 years until eclipsed by Brian Lara's 375 in 1994, had been secured by Attenborough Cricket Club in Nottingham to run a cricket clinic. The masterclass has been cancelled shortly before Sir Gary's arrival because only nine children had signed up.

Royal tips

A PR executive should know how to present herself but if Sophie Rhys-Jones needs any tips on dealing with the Royal Family she can now just pop next door. Belinda Harley, the former assistant-private-secretary to the Prince of Wales, is moving her publishing agency into the same offices as Prince Edward's girlfriend in Mayfair, Miss Rhys-Jones, who runs a PR company, and Miss Harley will rent separate sections of the office above the Thomas Goode china shop in South Audley Street and will have to share a photocopier and a kitchen. "We will welcome Belinda with a slap-up lunch," purrs Miss Rhys-Jones's partner, Murray Hardin. "It's such a nice office. Terry O'Neill (the royal photographer) is on the second floor." Cosy.



Sophie Rhys-Jones welcoming

● In-flight fashion is proving expensive for the staff of Landa Air, who have been issued with regulation Levi 501 jeans in an attempt to rejuvenate the image of the airline, which was founded by the former racing driver Niki Lauda. So smart are the jeans, at £40 it paid, that the inland Kiwiwings has classed them as a taxable benefit, for which all British-based staff must pay £8. "As we don't have any savings we will just have to grin and bear it," says an unhappy recipient.

P.H.S

A QUALIFIED SUCCESS

The GCSE system could still do better

The suspense is over. The results are in. Now 16-year-olds can enjoy the last couple of weeks of their summer holidays unencumbered by the dread of GCSE grades to come. Each teenager will have his or her own tale of euphoria or disappointment. But there are bigger stories to untangle from the results that have been published this week.

After several years of uncertainty, the GCSE system has now settled down. It is possible to compare one year with another and be confident that an improvement really is an improvement, not merely an anomaly or an example of more lenient marking. So this year, for instance, the results are marginally better, with an increase of 0.4 per cent in the pass rate for A* to C grades, the equivalent of the old O Level.

But there was also a worrying fall in the number of entrants for English, a subject that all 16-year-olds should be able to master. More students were examined in the newer (and perhaps easier) subjects such as PE, home economics and drama. Meanwhile the more traditional subjects, such as French, history, physics and chemistry, are quietly being spurned.

Harder to assess, but possibly more important for parents, are the perverse effects that the school league tables of GCSE results are likely to produce. At the moment, schools are judged by the percentage of their 16-year-olds gaining five GCSEs at A* to C grades. This is the accepted basic academic qualification demanded by employers. But the focus on this achievement alone means that schools are likely to work hardest with pupils in the middle of the ability range at the expense of those at the top and the bottom.

To maximise their league table score, schools are tempted to concentrate on turning D grades into Cs. There is little incentive to turn a G into a D, or indeed a C into an A, let alone an A*. Yet, for individual pupils, grades are very important. At the top

end, they influence a university's judgment, since pupils have to apply for a place before their A-level results are known. And at the bottom, a D or an E grade is more likely to lead to a job than an F or a G. The Government should consider introducing a points scoring system for GCSEs, like the one used at A-level, which would encourage teachers to work on improvements across the board, not just in the middle.

There is also the national scandal of the 9 per cent of all 16-year-olds who achieve not a single GCSE at any grade. There will always be a small number in any age group whose lack of ability precludes them from any academic success. But the size of this non-achieving group suggests that too many secondary pupils simply give up on school. A determined effort is needed to improve their motivation. It can be no accident that schools with the worst truancy records also tend to have the worst GCSE results.

Although GCSEs were supposed to be more modern than O levels, they are starting to look old-fashioned already. For those who leave school at 16, they may be a useful qualification. But these represent only 30 per cent of the age group, a third of whom have no GCSEs at all and two-thirds of whom do not have the basic maths and English. These school-leavers might be better served with vocational qualifications. Meanwhile, for the 70 per cent who stay on (a proportion that has doubled in a decade), GCSEs are not as good a grounding for A levels as the old O levels were. So the newer qualification suits, at best, only a fifth of pupils.

Even Nick Tate, head of the Government's new Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, admits that the GCSE may not be serving the nation's needs. He is right to argue that, since the effective school leaving age is now 18, there is less need for academic exams at 16, an age when hardly any other European country puts its pupils to the test.

WAIGEL'S HOLE

Sounds of digging under the great Schloss built by Kohl

Germany's August *Sommerloch*, the annual "summer hole" when Bonn empties, can be a season not of mellow reflection but of fraying political nerves and muttered scotches. Come autumn, Helmut Kohl has never seemed to have to lift more than a fingertip to pull his cohorts into line. But he has not previously had to contend with challenges to his authority so explicit, or so close to home, as those issued this month by Theo Waigel, Germany's Finance Minister.

On the surface, Herr Waigel's abrupt announcement this week that nine years in his present job is enough and that he seeks new political challenges would hardly seem to rank as a political explosion. He has not after all resigned with immediate effect. But equally, Herr Kohl can hardly go into the difficult 14-month run-up to the next parliamentary elections with a lame-duck Finance Minister and an even lamer economy. So Herr Waigel has said quite enough to upset the political applecart — as he clearly intended.

What Germans understand Herr Waigel to be saying to Chancellor Kohl is this: "Look here. I have saved your bacon time and again this past year, taking all the heat on an unpopular budget, failed tax reforms and the fiasco of the failed 'Rhinegold' raid on the Bundesbank reserves. Earlier this month, I said we needed to reshuffle this limp Cabinet and present voters with a Government in fighting condition to make a fresh start on Germany's problems. You dismissed the idea as 'superfluous'. But you cannot so dismiss me. I am the leader of the Christian Social Union which props up your coalition. And I have had enough."

In Britain, a Cabinet reshuffle would be sufficient to buy peace. But Herr Kohl cannot easily take that route. The reshuffle wanted by the ambitious Herr Waigel, who

has pointedly said that he can "do any job", would risk open war between the two wings of the coalition centred on Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats — the CSU and the tiny Free Democrat Party.

Herr Waigel wants the Foreign Ministry, traditionally the number two slot in German politics, but an FDP preserve. This would mean considerably more Cabinet power for the CSU, which it argues is its due since, alone of the coalition parties, its popular standing is on the rise. But precisely because the tiny FDP is fighting to stay on the map of federal politics, it would fiercely resist any demotion. Hence Herr Kohl's natural inclination to sweep this dust firmly back under the rug. Herr Waigel's latest move has made that much harder for him to do.

Even if this proves to be only a summer storm, it clears the air. What stands revealed is the growing desperation of the Chancellor's most powerful colleagues to change the political agenda and find a genuinely popular platform on which to fight an election campaign that all opinion polls agree the centre-right may well lose.

Herr Waigel has his power base in his own party to look to, and he is now the only CSU heavyweight who is not openly demanding a two-year postponement of EMU. As Finance Minister, he cannot break ranks with the Chancellor; and he will have noted that when his predecessor, Gerhard Stoltenberg, told CDU MPs earlier this summer that EMU should take third place to growth and unemployment, he was cheered to the rafters. The main obstacle to the "new start" Herr Waigel demands is the Government's commitment to meet the January 1999 deadline for EMU, come what may. Because there is no shaking the Chancellor on this point, the main obstacle to electoral victory is Herr Kohl himself.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

The summer of love goes under the hammer

Auction houses which once sniffed at anything younger than their founders are now falling over themselves to sell items that are fresher than an airline wetwiper. The latest auction of ephemera from an era close by will take place this autumn in California. Even in a place where a dinosaur is a laptop without Windows 95 and prehistory is the time before decaf skinny latte came with cinnamon or nutmeg, the idea of an auction of "antiques" from the '68 Summer of Love still seems just a little rushed. But nothing at the moment is as popular with auctioneers as popular culture.

What is meant by popular culture is, of course, changing. Book collectors find that the prices of slightly foxed firsts soar when it is Hollywood rather than the literary academies which signal approval. Once an early novel is turned into a script and then a screen hit the value of the first edition rises dramatically as a new generation of fans attaches to own one of the now iconic originals. Vladimir Nabokov's early admirers are not the only beneficiaries of screen stardust. *Superman* comics, once in every American boy's bedroom, became literary pulp fiction in the Forties when they were turned into packaging for the war effort. Then, when Christopher Reeve on the big screen and Teri Hatcher on the small made *Superman* stylish again, there was a run on the originals. They were so reduced in number

that their value rose faster than a bird, a plane, or even a speeding bullet. Supply and demand, multiplied by childhood memories, meant an investment of a few cents in a superhero's adventures appreciated a hundred-thousand-fold and more.

For the organisers of the summer of love sale, trying to interest buyers in the Grateful Dead's leather "medicine bag", there have, unfortunately, been no cinematic or television blockbusters which capture the mood of Haight-Ashbury 30 years ago. There has been no *Attenborough* biopic of Jerry Garcia or *BBC/CBS* co-production mini-series on Crosby, Stills and Nash. A measure of nostalgia for hippier days does, however, permeate the *fin de siècle* Nineties and movies like *Basquiat*, as well as pop's current plundering of the era, have enlivened the interest of a new generation.

Many of those anxious to buy mementoes of the summer of love may well find that artefacts are the only memories they have. For the hard-core hippies of '67 and '68, if you can remember what you were doing, you cannot have been there. They will approach the past through a glass darkly, like the pop star writing his memoirs who asked anyone who knew him during the Seventies to tell him what he had done, with what, and to whom. Perhaps, a sunburst poster of smoke and writhing limbs will be just the thing to jog the mind: a steal at \$10,000.

Labour 'has only itself to blame'

From Mr John Marshall

Sir, You may be right that Donald Dewar regards the scandals engulfing the Scottish Labour Party as an irritating distraction from the devolution debate leading article, August 20. Yet Mr Dewar has been a Glasgow MP for 19 years, was Shadow Scottish Secretary for nine years and Labour Chief Whip for 18 months. What did he then do to cleanse the Augean stables?

He can surely not complain if the party machine, whose weaknesses he seems to have overlooked, has come to haunt him now.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MARSHALL
(Conservative MP for Hendon South, 1987-97).
Finchley and Golders Green Conservatives,
Margaret Thatcher House,
212 Ballards Lane, N3,
August 20.

From Mr Joseph Sinclair

Sir, My euphoria at the Labour victory in the general election after the years of sleaze and immorality from an increasingly corrupted Government is rapidly turning to despair by the succession of stories of callousness and cynicism of which today's front-page story — the threatened suicide of an MP and the Chief Whip's apparent inaction — is merely the latest example.

Yours faithfully,
J. SINCLAIR,
106 Holders Hill Road, NW4,
August 21.

From Mr Richard Cussons

Sir, Labour's firm action at the national level in respect of Tommy Graham contrasts starkly with the shameful inaction of John Major in respect of Neil Hamilton. Thank goodness Tatton voters did it for him. Between firing salvos at Labour, William Hague should learn lessons from them.

Yours etc.
RICHARD CUSSONS
(Member, Tatton Conservative Association),
Jabulani, Benton Lane,
Knutsford, Cheshire,
August 21.

From Dr John D. Parkinson

Sir, Is it not a presumption if not an impertinence for Mr Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, to exonerate Mr Tommy Graham publicly from any involvement in the death of Mr Gordon McMeister (report, August 20)? Surely allocation of responsibility or otherwise is the task of the Procurator Fiscal, should he consider it appropriate to hold an inquiry.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. PARKINSON,
Strathgry,
Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire,
strathgry@aol.com
August 20.

Bosnian Serb threats

From Professor Adrian Hastings

Sir, Your report (August 18) that Bosnian Serbs have threatened that "hundreds will die, thousands" if Radovan Karadzic is arrested for war crimes is not a reason to delay. Like many similar Bosnian Serb threats in the past (even to bombard London) it should not be taken too seriously.

The opposite is undoubtedly true. If Karadzic and other senior indicted war criminals are not arrested but remain as at present, effectively wielding power in Republika Srpska, another war will be unavoidable once Western troops leave.

The only hope that a lasting peace can be maintained depends on the prior removal of those responsible for both the war and attempted genocide. The international community has to face a very simple alternative: some, fairly limited but possibly quite nasty, violence now — or a permanently unstable situation, followed by a full-scale war.

It would seem, however, that the principal reason why, since Dayton, the Western powers have steadily failed to arrest senior war criminals and have thus effectively reneged on their moral responsibility to do so — is a different one: if Karadzic and Mladic are put on trial they will decisively implicate President Milosevic as the master planner and paymaster of all they did.

It is, unfortunately, the profoundly mistaken American and British concern to protect Milosevic which has hitherto entailed the covert protection of Karadzic as well. But such protection is itself akin to that collusion in genocide which is part of the crime as defined in the international convention. It is more than high time that this should stop.

Yours sincerely,
ADRIAN HASTINGS,
University of Leeds,
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Leeds LS2 9JT,
August 19.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Essential disciplines of 'difficult' science and maths

From Dr Jonathan Osborne

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Power to the pupils", August 16) focuses closely on the weakness of the economic argument that we need more students of science to sustain our position in the economic pecking order. Whilst the data here are controversial, the DfEE's 1996 report, *Labour Market and Skill Trends*, shows that there will be a 15 per cent growth in the demand for science and technical professionals until 2006, one of the largest.

However, there is a much more important reason why science is a vital component of a child's education. Scientific knowledge is, arguably, the most significant achievement of Western civilisation. A liberal education demands that young people should be educated to the highest level possible in science before pursuing their specialisms.

An education in science still remains an excellent preparation for a whole range of non-scientific careers and for the socio-scientific issues that confront us in daily life.

In Scotland, where young people have a wider choice of subjects till 17, our research shows that the proportion of students choosing to study science is growing and, even in the rest of the UK, it has at least remained static in the face of competition from a range of subjects, such as sport and media studies, whose cultural significance and value to employers remains highly questionable.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN OSBORNE
(Lecturer in science education),
School of Education,
King's College London,
Waterloo Road, SE1,
jonathan.osborne@kcl.ac.uk
August 18.

From Dr Trisha Greenhalgh

Sir, Simon Jenkins is right to decry the false objectivity of the various A-level league tables. But exposing their weaknesses surely illustrates rather than obviates the need for a sound grounding in mathematics and statistics.

Queen's disputed visit to Amritsar

From Mr Keith Vaz, MP for Leicester East (Labour)

Sir, The controversy over the 1919 Amritsar massacre should not be permitted to disrupt the Queen's planned visit to India in October (reports, August 18).

Last Saturday when I met with the Prime Minister of India, Mr I. K. Gujral, he spoke of the visit in warm terms as a further indication of the excellent relations that exist between our two countries.

He referred to the many ways in which Britain and India could continue to foster their strong links, especially in trade and commerce. Numerous British firms are investing in India and that investment brings with it British jobs.

Last week's 50th anniversary independence Day celebrations were highly successful, and utterly devoid of anti-British feeling. Our own Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, was given pride of place during the historic midnight parliamentary session next to the President and Prime Minister.

The massacre ordered by Brigadier General Reginald Dyer in 1919 was a shameful, appalling and outrageous act. It must surely be possible to fashion an expression of regret that revisits history, satisfies the victims and their families without causing a huge outcry. It has been done before.

But this consideration should not necessarily be tied to the Queen's visit and it ought not to prevent her visiting the Golden Temple itself. Diplomats exist to sort these problems out. They should do so speedily.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH VAZ,
House of Commons,
August 18.

Victoria's chloroform

From Dr Tony Merrifield

Sir, In an interesting article in your series on Victorian Britain ("Conquering disease as an enemy of Empire", August 15) Dr John Snow is referred to as Queen Victoria's obstetrician. In fact he was her anaesthetist; her obstetrician was Sir James Clark.

John Snow (1813-58) was the first specialist anaesthetist and the author of classic texts on ether and chloroform. His attendance at the birth of Prince Leopold in 1853 made chloro-

form popular ("chloroform à la reine"). Previously its use in obstetrics had been condemned by some sections of the Church and medical establishment as interfering with nature.

The epitaph on Snow's grave in Brompton cemetery affirms that he demonstrated that cholera is communicated by contaminated water and he made the art of anaesthesia a science.

Yours etc.
TONY MERRIFIELD,
2 Barton Square,
Ely, Cambridgeshire,
August 15.

There was a time when teachers in schools and universities had a mandate to tell students to button down to unpopular but essential areas of learning.

The current laissez-faire approach to A-level and degree choices means our education system is failing its pupils, and they are failing themselves, in mathematics and hard science.

Yours etc.
TRISHA GREENHALGH
(Senior lecturer in primary care),
University College London
Medical School,
Whittington Hospital, N19 5NF,
p.greenhalgh@ucl.ac.uk
August 17.

From Sir John Maddox

Sir, Simon Jenkins is entitled to his opinion that science studies are irrelevant in modern Britain. But it is unfair of him to attribute efforts to increase the supply of scientists principally to the Thatcher and Major Governments. This has been one of the few consistent threads of government policy since the Attlee Government.

Further, he suggests that the students marching (against science) with their feet are yet another proof of the benignity of the labour market. But this section of the market is far from perfect. It is distorted by permanently inadequate science teaching in

schools, an over-ambitious examination system and by the over-regulation of institutions in higher education. This last has cruelly inhibited educational innovation.

The next century will see a global shortage of people skilled in the technologies springing from current research in genetics and microelectronics. Does Mr Jenkins believe that Britain should opt out?

Yours etc.
JOHN MADDOX
(Editor, *Nature*, 1966-73, 1980-96;
Co-ordinator, Nuffield Science
Teaching Programme, 1964-66).
j.maddox@nature.com
8 Pitt Street, W8,
August 17.

From Mr David Weston

Sir, As Mr Jenkins appears to attach so little importance to the training and work of scientists and engineers, perhaps he would care to give up his car, computer, telephone and fax, central heating, water, electricity, healthcare and dental care (and most probably his teeth), any food he buys, and all television, radio, printing and distribution methods (and therefore his job along with the rest of the media).

What use would all his newly created accountants, lawyers and journalists be then?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WESTON,
44 Stratford Road,
Watford, Hertfordshire,
david@westons.co.uk
August 16.

From Major O. Croombe

Sir, Simon Jenkins points out that Edinburgh accepts C grades to read engineering whilst Es suffice at Exeter or Salford. Could such statistics have any bearing on the fact that I currently own my eighth successive Japanese car?

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER CROOMBE,
29 Ashcombe Court,
Ashcombe Lane, Ilminster, Somerset,
August 16.

Help for Montserrat

From Councillor Hettie Peters

Sir, There are surely many who share a deep concern over the plight of the people of Montserrat, threatened by natural forces beyond human control and, perhaps, comprehension. Possibly they also share your frustration (leading article, August 21) at our apparent inability to offer speedy and effective relief to the people of a British colony, many of whom are as much directly descended from the inhabitants of these isles as the people of St Helena or the Falklands.

A century ago every major city in the United Kingdom would have already established its relief committee, chaired by the Lord Mayor and attended by dignitaries of Church and State. Is it too much to hope that as we see this colossal tragedy unfolding, we can emulate our forebears in humanity and decisiveness?

Yours faithfully,
HETTIE PETERS,
London Borough of Hackney,
Members Secretariat,
Town Hall, Hackney, E8,
August 21.

Mislaids plans

From Mr Edwin Entecott

Sir, In today's *Times* the anachronistic term blueprint is used to describe Lord MacLaurin's proposals for cricket (once in Alan Lee's report and twice in sports letters). The blueprint became obsolete at about the end of the Second World War, and I suspect most people will never have seen one. If such a thing still exists, I expect it would be found on the walls of the Tate Gallery, posing as art.

The words plan, idea or scheme might serve better and save some ink. Cricket was never, in my experience, a matter of detailed design: more a game of chance.

Yours sincerely,
EDWIN ENTECOTT,
11 Orchard Street,
Nuneaton, Warwickshire,
August 11.

Nothing to crow about

From the Director-Secretary of Glasgow Zoopark

Sir, Having just returned from holiday, I have been catching up on some back reading. A leisurely stroll through your *Pets Page* (Weekend, August 9) has now come to an abrupt halt.

The author James Alcock, discussing the problem of crowing cockerels making neighbours' lives a misery, recommends "castration" (canonisation in the bird world).

As one who, for much of a lifetime, has been under the impression that this practice was called castration, I am glad to be put straight.

I look forward to my next attendance at church with renewed zest. With grateful thanks,
Yours faithfully,
RICHARD J. P. O'GRADY,
Director-Secretary,
Glasgow Zoopark,
Calderpark, Uddingston, Glasgow,
August 19.

J.P. 101.50

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Chuen Lij: Weir H J: Weir P A:
Wethers P C: Wells L M: Wells T J:
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THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

Power to change baby's surname

Dawson v Wearmouth

Before Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment July 31]

The county court had jurisdiction on an application by the father of a child of unmarried parents to order that the child be known by the father's surname rather than that of the mother in which the child had been registered. But in exercising its discretion to do so the court was obliged to treat the registration as a major factor, not a matter of marginal significance.

The Court of Appeal held allowing an appeal by Dawn Anne Elaine Wearmouth from an order of Judge Couterill in Taunton County Court on March 26, 1996, made on the application of Mark Richard Dawson that their child, Alexander Wearmouth, be known as Alexander Guy Dawson and that she be prohibited from causing or permitting the child to be known by any other name.

Mr Roger Hayward Smith, QC, and Richard Harrison, neither of whom appeared below, for the mother, Miss Catherine Durbie for the father.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST, giving the judgment of the court, said Alexander had been born on March 23, 1996. The mother's surname was that of her former

husband, from whom she had separated in 1993 and was now divorced. She had begun living with Alexander's father in April 1995 and they had separated less than a month after the birth. She had looked after the child since together with the two children of her former marriage.

She had registered the child as Alexander Guy Wearmouth on April 19, 1996. On May 13, Mark Dawson had applied under section 8 of the Children Act 1989 for an order that the child be known as Dawson, not Wearmouth, together with orders for parental responsibility and contact in relation to Alexander.

The judge, in making the order, had approached the question of how Alexander should be named as though the matter had come before him at the time the birth was to be registered and before the question was resolved.

Mr Hayward Smith had submitted there was no jurisdiction to entertain an application to change a child's name, as opposed to prohibit the change of a child's name, save under section 13 of the Children Act 1989.

Miss Durbie had contended that specific issue orders under section 8 of the 1989 Act were introduced to replace the court's unfettered power existing jurisdiction in wardship

and that to hold otherwise would leave the father of an illegitimate child without remedy if the mother abused the responsibility arising from performance of her duty to register the child's birth.

In the case of an illegitimate child that duty was the mother's alone, and the father could play no part without her consent and cooperation. Once the mother of an illegitimate child had fulfilled her duty to register and exercised her right to register the surname of her child there was nothing in the Act to permit the registration to be changed.

Re B (Change of surname) ([1996] 1 FLR 791) established that there was jurisdiction under section 8 to make a prohibited steps order in relation to a proposed change of a child's surname.

The fact that the Family Proceedings Rules (SI 1991 No 1247 (L 20)) treated sections 8 and 13 of the 1989 Act as separate sections did not in their Lordships' judgment support the submission that applications in relation to children's surnames must be brought under the latter rather than the former section.

Change of surname was an apt example of an area in which the court had power to make a specific issue order, so long as no residence order was in force.

The purpose of section 13 was to

emphasise that the rights and duties consequent upon the grant of a residence order were not so extensive as to permit a change of surname or a removal from the jurisdiction without either the written consent of every person having parental responsibility or the leave of the court.

But where there was no residence order either party had the right to apply to the court for any of the four orders mentioned in subsection (1) of section 8. Only if a residence order was in force should the application be brought under section 13.

In practice it was inconceivable that such an application would be brought other than by the parent in whose favour the residence order had been made, because only they would have the opportunity in practice to cause the child to be known by a new surname.

Their Lordships' clear conclusion was that the jurisdiction was there. Whether it should have been exercised was another matter. If there was a general principle underlying the appeal it was that the registration or change of a child's surname was a profound and not merely a formal issue, whatever the age of the child.

Any dispute on such an issue must be referred to the court for determination whether or not there was a residence order in force and whoever had or did not have parental responsibility. No disputed registration or change should be made unilaterally.

It was wholly inappropriate for the court to put registration on one side as of no more than marginal significance, let alone disregard it entirely. In that respect the judge had erred in principle so that the court ought to exercise the discretion afresh.

The mother's evidence showed that the child's first name, Alexander, had been chosen by the father. But the name Wearmouth was the mother's actual name at the time it was chosen by her, as being that of Alexander's half brother and half sister. It was a perfectly natural and logical choice for the mother to have made and could not be criticised as alien merely because it was also the name of her former husband.

Those circumstances, coupled with the all important fact of registration, were very powerfully in the mother's favour and could only be displaced by strong countervailing considerations.

The considerations cited by the judge, that the child was in the mother's care and would be reminded of his father's place in his life by bearing his surname, would apply in virtually every case and could properly be regarded as routine in the circumstances.

The appeal would be allowed. Solicitors: Bannans, Taunton; Dodson Harding, Wellington.

Prejudice in stress on defendant

Al-Fayed v Emanuel Antiques Ltd

Before Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Roch

[Judgment July 23]

In a case of inordinate and inexcusable delay in prosecuting an action, a defendant's severe stress and the disruption to his business resulting from the plaintiff's allegations of fraud and dishonesty could amount to prejudice of a kind sufficient to justify the court striking out the proceedings.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an interlocutory appeal by the defendants, Emanuel Antiques Ltd, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Dyson on November 19, 1996, of their application to strike out an action brought by the plaintiff, Mr Mohammed Al-Fayed.

Mr Stephen Nathan, QC, for the defendants; Mr Neil Kitchener for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that the proceedings arose out of sales of antique candelabra by the defendant, a company of which Mr Emanuel Naghi was principal director, to the plaintiff, who owned and controlled Harrods.

Two pairs were sold in 1988 for £77,000. The second transaction took place in 1987 when two pairs, described as being nineteenth century, were sold for £72,000.

The plaintiff's claim for breach of contract/misrepresentation alleged that nineteenth century was

not an accurate description. The candelabra, he claimed, had been manufactured in the 1930s by one Ferdinando di Stefano in Italy.

Mr Naghi was arrested on allegations of criminal deception and forgery and interviewed by police. His evidence was that his arrest resulted from allegations made by Harrods security department. He had not been prosecuted.

Delay occurred in the conduct of the plaintiff's case. By October 1996, the defendant's solicitors pointed out a failure to comply with Order 3, rule 6 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and they issued a summons to strike out the plaintiff's action.

The judge found that there had been inordinate and inexcusable delay by the plaintiff's former solicitors between December 1994 and October 1996 and went on to consider the issue of prejudice to the defendants. He concluded that the defendants had not discharged the burden on them to show more than minimal prejudice.

Mr Nathan submitted that prejudice could consist of matters other than fading memories or the disappearance of witnesses.

He referred the court to the evidence that "the stress in Mr Naghi of this civil litigation throughout the last six years has caused him to suffer stress and disruption".

He said that, however, are the various allegations of fraud and dishonesty which have been made, have not been particularised and have been

hanging over the defendants and its director.

Such matters as disruption to the defendants' business and the effect on it and its principal director of having those serious allegations outstanding could and did form prejudice of the type required to be established by an applicant who sought to strike out an action for want of prosecution.

Such prejudice was not confined to prejudice affecting the actual conduct of the trial, but included prejudice to an applicant's business interests; see per Lord Griffiths in *Department of Transport v Chris Smaller (Transport) Ltd* ([1999] AC 1197, 1208).

The anxiety suffered by nurses whose professional competence was in question and delay in prosecuting allegations of negligence against a professional man have been considered by the Court of Appeal to be sufficient prejudice to justify striking out following inordinate and inexcusable delay: *Bis v Lamberth, Southward and Lewis v HIA (Teaching)* ([1978] 1 WLR 362).

The judge erred in overlooking that aspect of prejudice. As a matter of common sense, the existence of such allegations had to have had a grave and disruptive effect on the defendants' business and the reputation of Mr Naghi.

Having made serious allegations of fraud and forgery, it had been incumbent on the plaintiff to proceed with due and proper expedition. He had failed to do so.

The court was entitled to consider the type of prejudice, which was not dealt with by the judge, and to reach a conclusion on it. That conclusion was that the defendants had suffered prejudice and that the proper course, there having been inordinate and inexcusable delay which had added to that prejudice, was to strike the action out for want of prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, agreeing, said that Mr Kitchener said that all that was satisfactorily shown was the anxiety which serious allegations of fraud and dishonesty coupled with delay inevitably caused and he relied on *Trill v Sacher* ([1993] 1 WLR 1379, 1392) as showing that that was not enough.

The submission was rejected. The effect of the evidence on a fair and unprejudiced reading of it, was that the allegations of fraud and dishonesty had caused disruption to the defendants' business.

Even without evidence, it would not need much imagination to believe that they would have had that effect in a trade where the participants were mostly known to each other and reputations waxed and waned by word of mouth.

It was important to emphasise that here, in contrast to *Trill v Sacher*, the allegations of fraud and dishonesty were directly related to the conduct of the defendants' business. Significant damage in the defendants' business interest had been shown.

Solicitors: Finers, D. J. Freeman.

Limit to benefit payable for support services

Regina v Sutton London Borough Council, Ex parte Harrison

Regina v Swansea City and County Council, Ex parte Little

Regina v Welwyn Hatfield District Council, Ex parte Numan and Others

Regina v St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Ex parte Sandys

Before Mr Justice Laws

[Judgment July 24]

A general counselling or support service was eligible to be met by housing benefit only where the condition of the relevant accommodation's fabric as the landlord undertook to provide it.

Mr Justice Laws so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing applications by seven tenants for judicial review of the decisions of the housing benefit review boards of the respondent local authorities to the effect that certain service charges included in their rents were ineligible for housing benefit purposes.

Paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1077), as substituted by regulation 2 of the (Housing Benefit) (General) Amendment Regulations (SI 1994 No 1003) provides:

"The following service charges shall not be eligible to be met by housing benefit: ... (f) charges in respect of general counselling or other support services ... except where those services ... (i) relate to the provision of adequate accommodation."

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that the four applications turned on the construction of the words "general counselling or other support services (which) relate to the provision of adequate accommodation" in paragraph 1(f)(i) of Schedule 1 to the 1987 Regulations.

The applicants had submitted that the words referred to services whose purpose was to enable the tenant to retain his tenancy. That could be, for example, by helping to ensure that the rent was paid on time and if the services provided related also to the physical or

personal needs of the tenant they would not for that reason be taken out of paragraph 1(f)(i).

Against that, the respondents had argued that the sub-paragraph included only such services as were designed and intended to help the tenant maintain the physical fabric of his accommodation.

In his Lordship's judgment, the question was not whether the services were directed to maintaining the claimant in his accommodation, but whether they were directed to ensuring that his accommodation was adequate.

The phrase "the provision of adequate accommodation" was to be read narrowly.

The policy of the sub-paragraph was exceptionally to include within the cover provided by housing benefit charges for counselling and other services such as might tend to preserve the condition of the accommodation's fabric as the landlord undertook to provide it.

Solicitors: Mr Richard Poyner, Horney; Mr Duncan Forbes, Crickhowell and Carruthers & Co, Cambridge; Mr Timothy Teal, Sutton; Mr Peter Keith-Lucas, Swansea; Mr David W. Riddle, Welwyn Hatfield.

Distinguishing past and future losses

Costes v Curry

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Auld

[Judgment July 29]

It was not appropriate, in determining damages for personal injury, to lump together past and future loss of earnings without allocating a specific figure for each. Past losses were generally more easily assessable and it was necessary to know their size so as to calculate interest on special damages.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the defendant, William Curry, against an award of damages for personal injury by Mr Justice Holland on October 10, 1996 against the defendant, Hugh Robert Costes.

Mr James Wadsworth, QC, for the defendant; Mr Benet Hytner, QC, for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said the plaintiff had given up his job as a fireman in July 1986 because of a bad back and had done no work since. In June 1988 he had suffered further serious injuries in an accident for which the defendant

was responsible. His case was that but for those injuries he would have started a light industrial job.

The judge had found that the plaintiff's back was in a bad condition before June 1988, but regarded it as having a significant residual capacity which had been very substantially impaired by the injuries suffered in 1988.

The judge had used a broad brush approach to arrive at damages for loss of earnings of £73,157, taking the claimed annual losses over the previous eight years and awarding no separate sum for future loss of earnings.

Mr Wadsworth had submitted that the judge was wrong to take a broad brush approach to the whole claim for lost earnings. He should have made separate assessments under each head to distinguish the awards of special and general damages.

The judge was adopting the conventional multiplier/multiplier approach for both past and future earnings.

In his Lordship's view, the judge had made inconsistent findings about the effect of the plaintiff's bad back and the subsequent accident on the plaintiff's capacity

for work. He had wrongly lumped together past and future losses of earnings in one sum without allocating or indicating a means of identifying a specific figure for each.

As part of that error he had wrongly applied a broad brush approach to both heads of damage, rather than the conventional multiplier/multiplier method.

It was a long established practice to treat separately past and future losses. There were two good reasons for doing so:

First, past losses were generally more readily assessable and tended to have fewer uncertainties than future losses; second, since *Jefford v Gee* ([1970] 2 QB 130), it was necessary for the purpose of calculating the interest to be awarded on special damages.

In most cases past loss of earnings was calculable by reference to the established period of loss and from evidence as to earning potential during that period but for the injury and to inability to achieve that potential because of the injury.

The court could usually reflect the differences between the two

earnings figures and any uncertainties in them by way of a percentage discount. There was no need for a broad brush approach which should only be considered where the uncertainties were so many or so great that a reasoned calculation, even of chance, would be artificial.

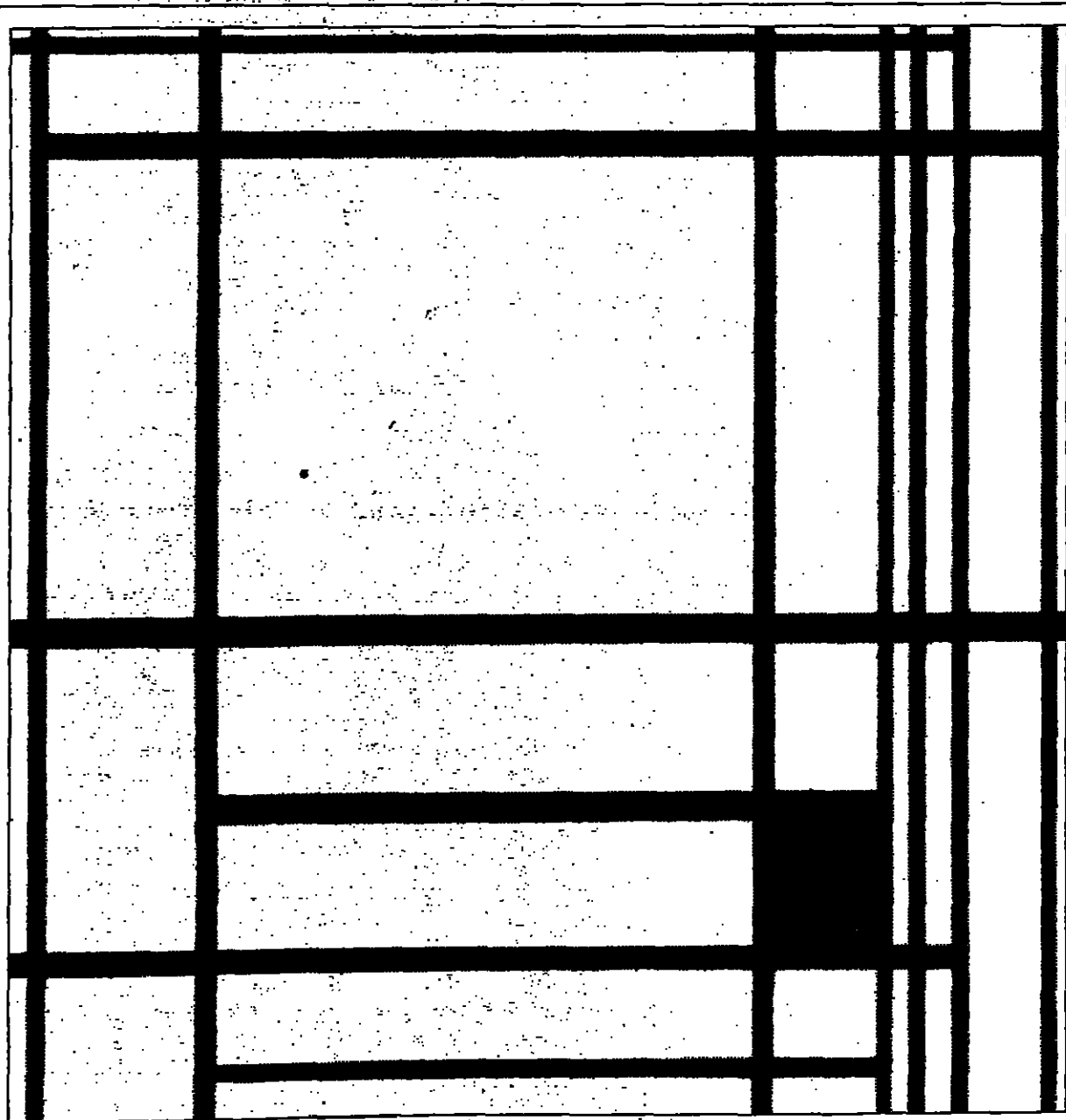
The judge had a clearly identified period of past loss, evidence of what the plaintiff could have earned had he found employment of the sort he claimed would have been available but for the accident, and medical evidence of his pre-existing disability.

The judge could and should have made a finding as to the plaintiff's earning potential during the period but for the accident and the effect on it of the accident injuries.

His Lordship made findings on those issues and allowed the appeal so as to substitute total damages of £18,114.40.

Lord Justice Hobhouse delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Hirst agreed with both.

Solicitors: Hay & Kilner, Newcastle upon Tyne; Addison Lister, Newcastle upon Tyne.



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THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR: Patricia Wheatcroft

FRIDAY AUGUST 22 1997

CBI cuts growth forecast as strong pound hits exports

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE strong pound and sharply falling export prospects threaten to spoil Britain's economic party, the Confederation of British Industry fears. As consumer spending powers the economy ahead in the short term, the CBI has cut its forecast of growth next year from 2.7 to 2.5 per cent.

Manufacturers' export orders have slumped to their lowest ebb for almost five years, according to the latest monthly survey by the employers' organisation, begun on July 24. A plurality of 37 per cent said their export order books were below normal, one of the worst figures since the manufacturing slump of the

early 1980s. Output is still growing quite strongly and the CBI reckons official figures understate the improvement in manufacturing. Domestic orders are also buoyant, leaving the total order book almost normal.

A 4.4 per cent annual rise in consumer spending, the fastest growth rate since the end of the last spending boom in 1989, powered growth of the whole economy in the second quarter of this year, according to new figures from the Office of National Statistics. Spending rose by fully 1.5 per cent between March and June, the biggest quarterly gain since the Lawson boom of 1988.

Gross domestic product expanded by 0.9 per cent between the first and second quarters, making an annual growth rate for the economy of 3.4 per cent. This was in line with City forecasts, but comes ahead of the surge of spending linked to windfalls in July.

Commentators noted anxiously, however, that investment is stagnating. Fixed capital formation edged up only 0.1 per cent during the three months to end-June, and was only 1 per cent higher than a year earlier.

The CBI's decision to cut its growth forecast from 3.1 per cent this year to 2.5 per cent in 1998 puts it just below the average of independent forecasts. It stems largely from the continuing strength of the pound, which the CBI says is still "uncomfortably high". Three months ago, CBI fore-

casters assumed that the Sterling Index would average 91 against yesterday's close of 101.6. Now they assume an average 99, a haven from the uncertainties of the euro.

If sterling was 10 per cent higher, the economy might grow by only 2 per cent next year. For that reason, the CBI maintains its usual hostility to any further rise in interest rates. Like the Treasury, it assumes that the summer growth in big-ticket consumption is a blip.

Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate director, said it was a basically up-beat forecast, with above-trend growth and low inflation this year subsidising gently into growth at around the long-term trend of 2½ to 2½ per cent in 1998 and for the next four years.

The CBI still projects that inflation (excluding mortgage interest) will be 2.7 per cent next year and remain a mile above the Treasury target of 2.5 per cent. Mr Junankar said this was "as close to the target as makes no difference". The economy should create about 1 per cent more jobs a year, the CBI said.

rates. Like the Treasury, it assumes that the summer growth in big-ticket consumption is a blip.

Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate director, said it was a basically up-beat forecast, with above-trend growth and low inflation this year subsidising gently into growth at around the long-term trend of 2½ to 2½ per cent in 1998 and for the next four years.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4978.0	(+19.6)
FTSE All share	2242.5	(+7.59)
Nikkei	10187.12	(+55.11)
New York	7953.27	(-55.99)
S&P Composite	933.38	(-5.57)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%	(5¼%)
Long Bond	97½%	(97½%)
Yield	6.56%	(6.54%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	7¼%	(7¼%)
Life long gilt	114¼%	(115¼%)

STERLING

New York	1.5905*	(1.5935)
London	1.5872	(1.5925)
DM	2.2936	(2.2967)
FF	1.5160	(1.5245)
Sfr	2.4062	(2.4311)
Yen	186.63	(188.07)
£ Index	101.6	(102.5)

\$\$\$ \$ DOLLAR		
London	1.8430*	(1.8564)
DM	6.2100*	(6.2550)
FF	1.5160	(1.5245)
Yen	117.85*	(117.60)
£ Index	106.2	(106.5)

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NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$18.70	(\$18.05)
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GOLD

London close	\$324.05	(\$322.35)
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* denotes midday trading price

MCI ready to discuss terms of BT merger

By ERIC REGULY

MCI, the US telecoms group, has told British Telecom that it is willing to renegotiate the "economic terms" of their proposed £14 billion merger.

The statement came as the Federal Communications Commission in the US cleared the proposed merger, eliminating the last regulatory barrier to the deal.

The City interpreted the statement as a climbdown by MCI which, until yesterday, had signalled that it was unwilling to accept a lower price despite its profits warning last month.

The City now believes that BT will be able to reduce the price by between 5 per cent and 20 per cent, though both companies said "there can be no assurance as to the outcome of the discussions".

The markets took the view that BT has a good chance of securing more favourable terms. BT shares rose more than 7 per cent, closing up 29p at 412½p, while MCI shares fell \$6 (£3.7) in morning trading, to just below \$31.

James Ross, analyst at ANB Amro Hoare Govett, said: "BT's share price will greatly depend on the degree of the renegotiation."

Anthony Ferrara, analyst with AG Edwards in the US, said: "If BT doesn't ask for a reduction in terms, there are people in New York who would like to sell them the Brooklyn Bridge."

MCI would not say what triggered the statement, which was issued immediately after an MCI management meeting early yesterday morning. An MCI official would say only that MCI "recognised that shareholders' interests were at stake", referring to the mounting institutional pressure on BT to renegotiate the terms.

Institutions began to withdraw their support for the merger, which would create a global telecoms operation called Concert, in July, when MCI said that this year's losses in the local market could reach \$800 million — more than twice the amount originally forecast.

Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, claimed he was surprised by the profits warning, though shareholders were not convinced, noting that he and two other BT executives sit on MCI's board and have been planning the merger for almost a year.

Some fund managers called on BT to abandon the deal, saying MCI would have continued problems penetrating local markets and that MCI's core business — its long-distance and overseas call services — were under pressure from intense competition.

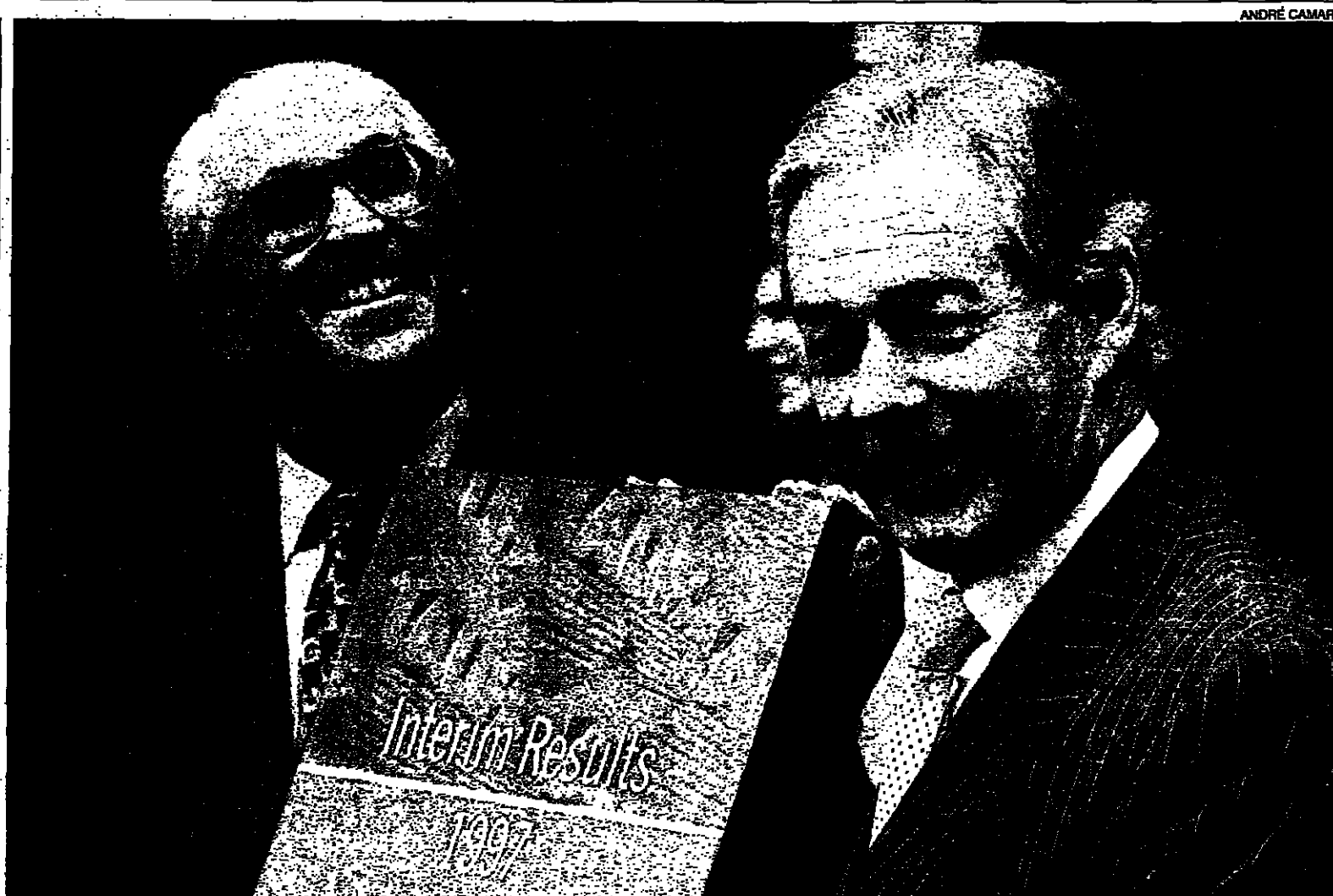
BT would have faced severe penalties if it scrapped the merger, including a £150 million walk-away penalty, and would have risked a barrage of costly breach-of-contract lawsuits in the US courts.

Some analysts said preserving the pay and options packages of MCI's directors was probably behind their new willingness to negotiate. Bert Roberts, the MCI chairman who is to become co-chairman of Concert, will receive more than \$80 million for his MCI shares and a further \$8 million in pay, bonuses and other incentives if he remains with Concert for three years.

BT is due to announce the results of an extensive review of the merger and MCI's operations by the end of next week. There is speculation that BT will cut investment programmes in an effort to reduce losses in the local operations.

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Looking up: Mike Blackburn, left, chief executive, and Jon Foulds, chairman, in buoyant mood after the Halifax's interim results yesterday

Halifax could spend £6bn on acquisitions

By CAROLINE MERRELL

HALIFAX emerged as one of the biggest predators on the high street yesterday, claiming it could spend up to £6 billion on buying other financial services organisations.

In the six months to June 30, pre-tax profits grew by 8.8 per cent to £802 million, buoyed by a 10 per cent increase in net mortgage lending to £5.2 billion, maintaining the Halifax's position as the UK's biggest mortgage lender with a 20 per cent share. However, in terms of net new mortgages, its share fell to around 10 per cent in the first half of the year, compared to 16.2 per cent for Lloyds TSB, owner of Cheltenham & Gloucester.

Adjusted earnings were 21.2p a share, up 8.2 per cent on a pro-forma basis. There is no interim dividend and the final dividend, yet to be declared, is due in May 1998.

The bank, which made its stock market debut on June 2, admitted it was sitting on around £3.5 billion of surplus capital, which it was hoping to use to fund the purchase of another company. It did not rule out a joint venture.

Jon Foulds, chairman, said: "The industries we are in are rationalising, there will be opportunities for us." The Halifax had successfully absorbed the Clerical Medical and the Leeds Permanent Building Society and did not want to be pushed into making the wrong purchase. Both Mr Foulds and Mike Blackburn, chief executive, indicated that the prices for financial

service companies were too high, and they could be forced to find another way of using up the capital.

Mr Blackburn said: "We have no philosophical hang-up over capital repatriation", indicating that the company would consider buying back shares to enhance earnings or pay an increased dividend.

Despite Halifax savers being able to move their money since February, the bank managed to increase net retail balances by £3.6 billion. Mr Blackburn shrugged off the suggestion that societies remaining mutual, which claim to be able to offer better saving and borrowing rates, would present a threat.

Tempus, page 28

Germans to review key rate weekly

THE Bundesbank has taken further steps to forestall any run on the mark by telling the markets that it will take week-by-week decisions each Tuesday on its stock repurchase, or repo, rate. The key interest rate for money market adjustments (Graham Searjeant writes).

The German central bank again left its formal discount and Lombard rates at 2.5 and 4.5 per cent, respectively. However, the mark recovered as commentators concluded that there was now active argument in the bank over whether to tighten monetary policy for the first time in five years.

Sterling fell three pence to DM2.9236 on foreign exchanges.



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MAID in takeover talks

By FRASER NELSON

DAN WAGNER, the chief executive of MAID, is in takeover talks with the management of rival Knight-Ridder Information which could lead to the creation of the world's largest on-line information provider.

The two companies are looking at a reverse takeover of MAID which would leave Mr Wagner at the helm of an enlarged group with a market value of some £700 million.

The talks come four months after Knight-Ridder, America's largest on-line information company, was placed on the auction block by its parent company.

MAID is understood to be considering paying £300 mil-



Wagner: enlarged group

lion for its rival, almost 40 per cent above its own £220 million market valuation. The extra cash would be found through complex debt agreements from a wide range of

banks. Knight-Ridder has cut off talks with all potential suitors, including Reed Elsevier and Reuters. The announcement came as no surprise in the City, after dealers had caught wind of the talks earlier in the week.

MAID's shares, which had jumped 20 per cent since Monday, eased 2p to 235p on disappointment that the company itself is unlikely to fall victim to a predator.

Analysts gave the prospect of a deal an enthusiastic welcome. One said: "This is the reason people have been buying MAID shares. MAID has been punching above its weight — this deal will give it the weight."

Maverick poised, page 29

Regan case discontinued

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE Crown Prosecution Service has discontinued its prosecution of Andrew Regan, the 31-year-old entrepreneur behind the aborted £1.2 billion bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society. He was accused of accepting confidential CWS documents.

The cases against Mr Regan's partner, David Lyons, and Allan Green, a former CWS executive, have also been discontinued. All were awarded defence costs, believed to exceed £100,000, by City of London Magistrates Court yesterday.

The CPS will take another look at the case once the police investigations are finished. If there is enough evidence, pro-



Regan: looking at advisers

ceedings could be reinstated, it said. The CPS took over a private prosecution from the CWS in June. Mr Green, who in the CWS alleged passed commercially sensitive documents

to Mr Regan, was charged with theft. The other two were charged with procuring theft and handling stolen goods.

Ian Burton, the solicitor for Mr Regan and Mr Lyons, said they had emerged "with no stain on their characters. They are absolutely delighted."

Greater Manchester Police confirmed last night that its commercial fraud squad was continuing its investigations.

Mr Burton said that Mr Regan and Mr Lyons "will be considering their position in relation to the professionals that advised them". Three directors at Hambros, the merchant bank, and a lawyer from Travers Smith Braithwaite resigned in the wake of the affair. The firms advised Mr Regan.

Pension funds see highest returns in two years

By Graham Seargeant
FINANCIAL EDITOR

PENSION funds' portfolios enjoyed their highest returns for nearly two years in the second quarter of this year, thanks to timely investment in Japan and the boom on Wall Street. But they underperformed at home.

On calculations made by the W.M. Company, covering three quarters of the sector, UK funds averaged a total return including income and capital growth of 5.6 per cent over the three months to June 30.

This beats the return of 5.2 per cent shown by the FTSE all-share index over the period. But the pension funds' own UK equities averaged a return of only 4.6 per cent, the fourth consecutive quarter in which professional fund managers have not been able to match the index average.

They lagged behind because they had proportionately low investments in big banks and pharmaceutical shares, especially HSBC and SmithKline Beecham, which led the index's advance.

John Williams of W.M. said: "Managers have been anticipating some correction in the market. It is likely they would have reduced their holdings mainly in shares which had shown relatively strong performance."

Over the past two years, the average holding of UK shares in big funds has come back from 53 to 51 per cent, and from 57 to 54 per cent among small funds. Funds have withdrawn £20 billion out of UK shares but rapidly rising prices have kept the proportion of UK equities up.

The survey was the last before pension funds lost the right to reclaim tax paid on dividends, which could affect future portfolio strategy.

UTV chief signals confidence by buying shares worth £8.4m

By Eric Reguly

THE millionaire chairman of Ulster Television signalled his confidence in the future of the ITV network with the purchase yesterday of £8.4 million of shares.

John McGuckian, who has been non-executive chairman of UTV for six years, bought four million shares at 210p, raising his shareholding to almost 4.7 million shares.

Other directors bought smaller amounts at the same price.

Mr McGuckian is thought

to be one of the wealthiest men in the province. He owns a textiles company, sits on the board of Allied Irish Bank and is the chairman of the Industrial Development Board of Northern Ireland.

UTV shares rose 38p, to 237p, partly because the company announced that it is considering a share buyback or the payment of a special dividend. The rise gives Mr McGuckian a quick £1.1 million paper profit.

John McCann, UTV's general manager, said: "We certainly felt that we had a lot of confidence in the company

and we wanted to underpin this by putting our money where our mouth is."

The directors' purchases came as Scottish Media raised its stake in UTV from 14.9 per cent to 18.2 per cent through

Tempus 28

the purchase of 1.67 million additional shares at 210p. Scottish Media has stated that it will buy up to 29.9 per cent and is not ruling out a takeover offer.

A bidding war for UTV

seems unlikely, although Scottish Media's investment was thought to have been triggered by speculation, that United News & Media was considering a bid of its own.

The company paid a special dividend in mid-1996 of £1 a share (the equivalent of 20p after a five-for-one split).

Mr McCann said that a decision on a buyback or special dividend "would be made in the reasonably near future". The company's cash pile stands at £12 million.

Pre-tax profits in the half year to the end of June were £3.64 million, down from

£4.67 million in the same period a year ago, on turnover from continuing TV operations of £16.98 million, which was down marginally. The 1996 figure included an exceptional gain of £333,000 related to the company's investment portfolio.

UTV said that it had a disappointing second quarter but its regional service continued to grow in popularity, capturing a 39.5 per cent viewing share against 33.2 per cent for ITV average.

An interim dividend of 2.5p, up from 2.25p, is due to be paid on October 1.

Gas sales teams continue to anger customers

By Christine Buckley
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GAS companies fighting for household business are continuing to anger customers with aggressive sales pitches, according to new figures from the Gas Consumers Council.

This is despite intervention last year from the Office of Fair Trading and repeated controversy over how energy companies approach homes.

More than a third of people who complained to the council last month were annoyed at sales tactics, including plays such as telling householders that British Gas had gone out of business.

Sue Slipman, director of the council, which published for the first time a league table of offenders, said: "There is obviously more to be done by the companies. We appreciate that there will be teething problems but the league table is intended to keep companies focused on action they should take."

Top of the first league table for dubious doorstep selling was Atlantic Gas Alliance, which received 34 complaints but was not criticised on any other count.

Overall Eastern Natural Gas had the most complaints at 83, followed by Calortex at 81.

The council received 291 complaints last month with 102 relating to sales tactics.

Atlantic Gas, Eastern and Calortex all said they had taken complaints seriously but the numbers were small in the context of their business. Eastern said it had sacked "a handful" of salespeople.

Last year the Office of Fair Trading rebuked SwebGas for aggressive selling on the doorstep after a stream of complaints from customers in the South West of England - the first area to be opened to competition.

Since then competition has been introduced to the South East of England and is poised to start in Scotland and the North East of England in November.



John Clement, chairman of Ransomes, right, and Peter Wilson, chief executive

Ransomes in takeover talks

By Sarah Cunningham

SHARES in Ransomes, the lawnmower and specialist industrial truckmaker, leapt 75 per cent yesterday after the company announced that it has received a takeover approach.

The Ipswich-based company said that "while discussions are still at an early stage, it is likely that any offer is likely to be at a significant premium to the current ordinary share price."

The statement sent the shares leaping ahead from 29p - close to their year low - to 51p.

Analysts believe that, given that its US industrial division is one of the most successful parts of the group, it is most likely that an American company has made an approach.

Ransomes has had a difficult year. The company's shares lost more than a third

of their value in one day in March after it issued a profits warning. It blamed softness in its commercial grass machinery market, which supplies mowers to local authorities and golf courses.

In the event, interim profits were down from £6.7 million to £5.5 million. The company is expected to produce full-year profits of about £11 million.

Inchcape strategist resigns

By Mark Court

INCHCAPE, the international distribution group, yesterday lost its director of strategic development when Andrew Cummins put in his resignation.

Mr Cummins, 47, will not be replaced on Inchcape's main board. Instead, the strategic role will be carried out by John Whiteman, group development director.

Mr Cummins was instrumental in clearing Inchcape's borrowings by selling Testing Services for £80 million and offloading Bain Hogg, the insurance broker, for £160 million. One analyst said: "He was doing a good job behind the scenes on the divestiture programme. He got a good price for Testing Services and Bain Hogg last year."

Some analysts believe that Mr Cummins should have been replaced. One said: "There is a role there for somebody. They have been talking about gearing up the balance sheet for acquisitions."

Mr Cummins will go at the end of the year to pursue "a number of opportunities", a company spokesman said. He is not expected to be compensated.

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Profits fall as Johnson Fry reshapes itself

JOHNSON FRY, the financial services company, suffered a 46 per cent fall in pre-tax profits in its first half as it pursued its strategy to become a specialist retail fund manager (Gavin Lumsden writes).

The loss of revenue caused by the £8.5 million sale of Pinnacle, its housing management and insurance broking divisions, cut pre-tax profits before exceptional items from £1.5 million to £800,000. Earnings per share before exceptional items fell from 7.2p to 4.9p. An unchanged interim dividend of 2p is due on November 28.

Disposal proceeds lifted the company's net assets by 55 per cent to £15.4 million. David Backhouse, chairman, said this meant that it could fund further growth and make acquisitions in the next two years.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Property insurance claims down 26%

BRITISH domestic property insurance claims totalled £790 million for the first six months of 1997, a 26 per cent fall from the same period in 1996, said the Association of British Insurers. Claims for household disasters such as burglaries, fire and weather damage cost insurers in excess of £4 million a day during the first six months of 1997, but this level was significantly lower than last year, primarily as a result of reduced weather damage, the ABI said.

Weather damage claims were down 41 per cent from a year ago, domestic fire damage claims were unchanged and household theft claims were slightly down on a year ago. Subsidence claims were 30 per cent higher at £170 million. Commercial property claims were 20 per cent down on last year at £468 million, with the largest single claims arising from a factory fire in the North East of England costing £7 million and an arson attack on a school in the North West of England, which cost some £5 million.

Bookseller cuts losses

BARNES & NOBLE, the world's largest bookseller, reduced second-quarter losses to \$1.37 million (\$600,000) from \$2.72 million, on sales up 18 per cent to \$671.7 million. The company said the continued losses reflect heavy sales and administrative costs. Barnes & Noble superstore revenues rose 26 per cent to \$303.6 million from \$239.1 million, accounting for 82 per cent of total revenues (76 per cent) in the quarter. Sales at B&N stores open for at least one year rose 10.6 per cent.

Clondalkin advances

INTERNATIONAL currency movements helped Clondalkin Group, the acquisitive Irish print and packaging company, to lift interim pre-tax profits to Ir£13.3 million (£9.2 million), from Ir£9.9 million last time. The company said that the outlook for the rest of the year is "satisfactory" and hinted that further acquisitions in labelling and packaging companies would be made in the second half. A dividend of 2.6p is to be paid on September 10, up from 2.3p last time.

CFS on growth path

CFS GROUP, the software and administration support company, yesterday reported an eightfold increase in pre-tax profits for the 26 weeks ended June 30, from £26,000 to £252,000. Turnover more than doubled from £1.75 million to £3.7 million, reflecting organic growth and acquisitions. Earnings per share rose from 1.6p to 2.5p. No dividend will be paid. The company said it was confident of further strong growth in the second half. The shares fell 7p to 95p.

OFT may refer £1bn deal

THE Office of Fair Trading said it is considering referring the country's largest management buyout to date to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. OFT is looking at referring the £1 billion acquisition by Cliven Group of Cie Generale des Eaux's unit Generale de Sante International, including General Healthcare group, to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation and report. It is inviting public comment on the matter to be made before September 5.

Avesta Sheffield hit

AVESTA SHEFFIELD, the Anglo-Swedish steel group, said its first quarter for 1997-98 was hit by currency moves and that current forex rates would have an even larger effect on earnings. Avesta Sheffield, 51 per cent owned by British Steel, showed a pre-tax profit of 185 million crowns (£14.5 million) against 228 million crowns a year ago. The company said currency movements wiped 110 million crowns off the result in the three months ending June 30. Sales were up 8 per cent.

T Clarke at the double

T CLARKE, the construction group, almost doubled pre-tax profits from £80,113 to £1.1 million in the six months to June 30 and told shareholders that it hoped to be in a position to increase the final dividend by an amount similar to the 25 per cent rise in the interim to 2.035p a share. Earnings rose from 2.94p to 5.79p a share. The company said that it had cash balances of around £7 million and was "in excellent shape and well prepared for the challenges ahead."

Wedderburn oil buy

WEDDERBURN SECURITIES, which is listed on AIM, is to pay £4.63 million for Anglo Caspian Oil, which has a 70 per cent share in an exclusive production licence to exploit oil in Kazakhstan. The company said a £500,000 offer has been received for the sale of Wedderburn Developments, whose sole asset is two sheltered housing units in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. This was in line with the group's plans to dispose of its property interests and establish it as an oil company.

ALIT's payout rises

ABTRUST Lloyd's Insurance Trust (ALIT), a corporate vehicle investing in the insurance market, has announced a smaller dividend than some observers expected. Distributing profits of its 1994 year of underwriting at Lloyd's, ALIT declared a final dividend, due on October 7, of 6.45p (202p previously) to make 5p (3.7p). ALIT said it had time to fill only 67 per cent of 1994 underwriting capacity. Subsequent years had seen fuller utilisation. Pre-tax profits were £3.9 million (£1.3 million).

Amro costs increase

GENEROUS bonuses and higher staff costs pushed expenses up by nearly 24 per cent, depressing interim profits at ABN Amro, the Dutch banking group that owns Hoare Govett, the broker. Operating costs of £2.3 billion at ABN Amro also included provisions for a number of specific items such as the introduction of the single European currency. Net profits at the Dutch bank rose by 20 per cent to £618 million while the interim dividend rose by 17.8 per cent to 0.43p a share.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.158	2.205
Belgium Fr	35.55	35.55
Canada C\$	2.348	2.348
Cyprus Cyp£	0.803	0.841
Denmark Kr	11.73	10.94
France Fr	9.27	9.27
Germany DM	3.09	2.85
Hong Kong S	13.10	11.90
Ireland P£	1.27	1.06
Italy Lira	1.15	1.06
Japan Yen	202.13	184.60
Malta M£	0.670	0.611
Netherlands Gld	3.604	3.18
New Zealand \$	2.64	2.40
Norway Kr	12.86	11.86
Poland Zloty	309.10	282.0
Portugal Esc	204.48	228.48
Spain Ptas	166.38	153.38
Sweden Kr	13.59	12.43
Switzerland Fr	2.756	2.545
Taiwan NT\$	27.76	25.65
USA \$	1.695	1.552

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986 and the Companies Act 1985.
I, the undersigned, being the Liquidator of the above-named company, do hereby give notice that the creditors of the company are to meet at the office of the Liquidator, at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF, on the 22nd day of September 1997, at 10.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of considering the proposed arrangement for the payment of the debts of the company, and for the purpose of voting on the proposed arrangement.

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Saracen considers offers to run trust

THE battle for Saracen Value, the smaller companies investment trust, continued yesterday as the board considered proposals from several investment houses scrambling to displace the current managers, SFM (Adam Jones writes).

The board is still resisting attempts by HSBC Asset Management, the most vocal of the pretenders, to take over the running of the trust.

A Saracen spokesman said HSBC, which has challenged

Bangkok says it borrowed \$24bn to defend currency

THE Thai Government borrowed \$24 billion (£15 billion) to defend the baht against the wave of recent speculative attacks, it disclosed yesterday. Although its efforts failed, with the currency being forced into an effective devaluation in early July, the Thai authorities must now repay the money within 12 months.

Because \$14.8 billion of the debt is offshore, any attempt by Thailand to square its accounts could be a huge drain on its foreign exchange reserves, which stood at \$29 billion at the end of July.

Chaiyawat Wibulsuwan, the Thai central bank governor, said that the \$16.7 billion international rescue package, triggered by the IMF's approval on Wednesday of a \$3.9

Thais count cost of baht battle

very tight if it had to reimburse all its lenders in the next couple of months.

The situation would also deteriorate if the authorities insisted on bailing out the rest of the financial sector companies or guaranteeing their deposits, which may amount to \$30 billion. If they do not, however, there could be a run on the banks, with potentially devastating economic consequences. It is also unclear whether the structural reforms to which Bangkok has publicly committed itself, at the IMF's behest, are far-reaching enough to reassure investors.

Although currency speculators made money out of the baht crisis, many foreign investors suffered big losses. Microcap, the statistics company, says that many investment fund indices fell sharply.

PARK SIDE INVESTMENTS LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The Official Liquidators of Park Side Investments Limited ("the Liquidators") appointed in the Cayman Islands are requesting creditors to advise the Liquidators in writing of the details of their claims against Park Side Investments Limited by October 3, 1997 at the address below:

Official Liquidators
Park Side Investments Limited
P.O. Box 1359
Grand Cayman
Cayman Islands, BWI

All persons with potential claims should note that the above noted company is distinct from and wholly independent of Park Side Limited of Cliftway (Cayman) Ltd., P.O. Box 1770GT and Parkside Investments of Maples and Calder, P.O. Box 309GT, which are not in liquidation.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-680 6878
OR
FAX 0171 481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

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The early bird catches a cold



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Rarely can a merger have turned so sour so fast as has the linking of BT and MCI. But if Sir John Vallance and Sir Peter Bonfield believe that they can save face with just minor cosmetic surgery to the terms of the deal, they are mistaken.

Shareholders in BT will need to be convinced all over again that they will be better off with MCI than without and that they are not being "rugged" over the price. Negotiating the MCI boys down by 10 to 15 per cent may not be enough to calm those investors who have increasingly been voicing their unhappiness over the deal. Neither will it be enough to restore confidence in the BT leadership, who appear to have been carelessly extravagant in their enthusiasm to buy MCI and inept in their handling of the mess in which it has landed them.

The company's statement yesterday that the "economic terms" of the merger were being re-examined appears to have been given only grudgingly, drawn out not by a wish to keep shareholders in the picture but by the need to rebut crass rumours that the deal would proceed unchanged — rumours which had been bolstering the MCI share price.

But what shareholders really need is some explanation as to how and why BT comes to be in this position. Only three months ago, in a set piece interview for the company's annual report, Sir

Peter was proclaiming why the merger was "such a major opportunity" and MCI the perfect partner.

As a director of MCI, one would have thought he was well placed to reach this conclusion. But it was Sir Peter's apparent shock at the MCI profits warning that caused almost more alarm than the warning itself. It raised the question of whether BT really knew what it was proposing to blow £15 billion on and, if not, why was it so enthusiastic for the deal?

In the annual report, Sir Peter explains that: "One of the great advantages of moving early, as we did, is that you can choose the best. Which is what we did." Perhaps his enthusiasm to be an early bird snapping up tasty telecoms deals led BT to be a little lax in its researches and not realise that MCI's worm was turning rather nastily.

Certainly BT's non-executive directors should now be demanding a full explanation of how they come to be in this predicament. Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman of British Airways, might not be entirely thrilled to contemplate that not long ago, in his role as chairman of BT's remuneration committee, he was defending the lavish

bonus schemes that directors of the merged company would enjoy. Those too, will no doubt come back under the microscope as the merits of any merger are re-examined.

Then, perhaps, BT should call upon the services of another non-executive, Sir Ewen Ferguson. His 36 years in the diplomatic service might make him the ideal emissary to inform the MCI directors of what BT now believes their company to be worth.

When will Beckett set her course?

Down in Dover, the ferries are enjoying a bumper holiday season as they carry folk across the Channel to sample the delights of the (now nearly) ten-franc pound.

Unfortunate incidents such as Wednesday's hold-up in the Channel Tunnel cause the ferry operators to shed few tears. They

may be due to false alarms, but they do little to encourage travellers to desert the boats.

So with business flourishing, P&O is not as sore as it might be over the continuing official silence on the subject of its merger with Stena. But, before long, Lord Sterling would appreciate a little enlightenment since, once the holiday season is over, he would like to be free to restructure his operations in a way that makes economic sense.

The reluctance of the President of the Board of Trade to rule upon his proposals has significance which goes well beyond the ferry business. It is an indication of how Mrs Beckett intends to conduct Britain's competition policy in relation to Europe.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report into the £410 million merger has been with the DTI since April. Mrs Beckett is withholding her judgment on it until Brussels has pronounced. The French authorities did not

feel bound to wait for the verdict of Commissioner Van Miert before deciding whether the deal should be allowed: they waved it through at the start of the summer.

It may be that Mr Van Miert will do the same, although he is a tough and tricky individual, whose reactions are far from easy to predict. Whichever way he decides, will Mrs Beckett feel obliged to agree? If not, one wonders why she has not come to her own conclusion by now and told us. There are logical reasons why Brussels should have a view on what is a genuine cross-border deal, with implications for jobs on both sides of the Channel. But British companies need to have a clear indication of where and how competition decisions are to be taken.

If Mrs Beckett is accepting that she is merely a rubber stamp for Mr Van Miert and his colleagues, she may as well tell us. The indications are that P&O

must wait until late September to learn whether Brussels will allow him to link with Stena and that Mrs Beckett will pronounce shortly afterwards. The company will then have reported figures which show just how buoyant the cross-Channel business has been. But it will not last and the authorities should bow to the need for consolidation.

Costain investors left in limbo

The Stock Exchange is showing an extraordinarily cavalier approach to the predicament of shareholders in Costain.

The company's quote has been suspended for almost a year and yet the Exchange seems in no hurry to have the situation rectified.

It may be that the shares are virtually worthless, but that is no reason to leave investors in limbo. In general, if a company's shares are suspended, the Exchange is anxious to bring them back to market within a matter of weeks.

But the Costain situation remains murky. It was July last year when Malaysian investors

put £73 million in to rescue the company but they have since realised that what they were getting was not one of the world's major contractors, as Costain once had been.

Today, the company has few big projects underway and the likelihood of its coming to a double difficulty, restraining it from investing heavily in tendering for new work, and making international customers wary of doing business with it.

It is not surprising, therefore, that what talent remains in the company may not hang around much longer.

Yet in the Far and Middle East, Costain had a valuable reputation which could yet be salvaged. The delayed accounts for 1996 should soon make clear whether there is a foundation on which the builder could be rebuilt.

Staying in tune

Prospective bidders for Boosey & Hawkes are queuing up, despite the hazards of becoming involved with a few artistic temperaments. Music-lovers have written to *The Times* declaring their fears that a new owner might dismember the group, splitting instrument making from music publishing. Who ever takes over the company will need to adapt the usual corporate song sheet to accommodate such sensibilities.

SB faces £950m overcharging action by American insurers

By PAUL DURMAN

SMITHKLINE Beecham is being sued for \$1.5 billion (£950 million) by American insurers who picked up the bill for overcharging by the pharmaceutical group's Clinical Laboratories division.

Earlier this year the company agreed to pay \$325 million to Medicare and other US Government healthcare agencies over a battery of similar complaints.

SmithKline Beecham, whose chief executive is Jan Leschly, insists the new claim is grossly exaggerated and is angered that it is being brought under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act (RICO). A spokeswoman said: "That's awful. It's the wrong law. It's completely inappropriate." She added: "We haven't defrauded anybody and are going to defend ourselves right to the end."

The lawsuit is being brought by a consortium of insurers, including Aetna, New York Life and Prudential of the US, who represent 37 per cent of the US private health insurance industry. On top of overcharging, the 110-page legal claim alleges a more extensive fraud, including kickbacks to doctors and fabricating test codes. Under RICO, plaintiffs can claim triple damages and it is this that has magnified the insurers' claim. SB's Clinical Laboratories arm is an £800 million-a-year business that carries out



Jan Leschly, chief executive of SB, is ready to contest the lawsuit being brought by a consortium in the US

blood, urine and other tests on behalf of American doctors and hospitals. The cost of the tests are often met by insurers, who cover companies' employee benefit plans and other private healthcare schemes. The company blames its previously lax procedures for carrying out too many tests either unnecessarily, without requests from doctors or with-

out the proper authorisation codes. Although it has made the biggest settlement in recognition of these failings, it is not alone: Laboratory Corporation of America has paid \$302 million and Corning Laboratories has agreed a \$178 million settlement. Under RICO, the insurers will have to prove SB intentionally broke the law — a

much more demanding requirement than in the Medicare case. In its dispute with Medicare, the company said: "There's never been any suggestion of intent." SB has still to exhaust the £250 million provision it has made against the costs of settling the American disputes. It remains confident its ultimate liability will not have

a material adverse effect on its financial condition." SB's shares ended the day only 4p lower, at 1134½p. Mark Brewer, analyst with ABN Amro Hoare Govett, suggested that the insurers' action was largely a scare tactic that would be too difficult to prove and would eventually be settled out of court for perhaps \$100 million.

Swing in exchange rate knocks Quarto

By MARK COURT

SHARES in Quarto, the publisher, fell more than 15 per cent yesterday to 155p after the company announced interim profits down by two thirds.

The company blamed currency movements and an increasingly competitive book market for the collapse in profits, from £1.58 million pre-tax in the first half last year to just £520,000 this time.

Quarto, under Laurence Orbach, chairman and chief executive, tried to reassure institutions, which have seen their investment halve in value in 12 months, by maintaining the dividend and spelling out a strategy for the future.

Mick Mousley, finance director, said: "We are looking at reforming our books to

control cost and driving our print prices down."

Quarto prints most of its books in the Far East, where it is negotiating lower prices, and is also talking to French and German printers to bring more of its printing to Europe.

Mr Mousley blamed a 29 per cent swing in the sterling/mark exchange rate as the main culprit for the profits slump at Quarto, which makes 80 per cent of its revenues overseas.

Mr Orbach said that profits for the full year would be unlikely to equal last year's £7.8 million. The interim dividend, maintained at 2.2p, is due to be paid on October 24.

Tempos, page 28

Pereira suing Capital for wrongful dismissal

By JASON NISSE

DESMOND PEREIRA, the former company secretary of Capital Corporation, yesterday sued the gaming group claiming breach of contract, unfair dismissal and racial discrimination.

If successful the damages could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds. Mr Pereira, who is British but of Asian origin, was dismissed in May by Alan Hearn, Capital's chief executive, after running the finance operations of the company while it was defending a £200 million bid from London Clubs International.

Mr Pereira issued proceedings at the North London Industrial Tribunal after having been in talks with the



Thompson co-defendant

company about compensation for loss of office.

The move came two days after Capital sued Mr Pereira, Kenneth Thompson, the for-

mer acting chief executive, and Guy Hutchinson, the former head of purchasing, alleging conspiracy to injure the company. The three have denied any wrongdoing and yesterday both Mr Pereira and Mr Hutchinson put out statements saying they "never acted otherwise than in the best interests of Capital".

Capital alleges the three conspired to persuade 11 staff members to resign, that Mr Thompson helped Ogden, the US service group, put in a rival bid for the Cromwell Mint casino in London when Capital was attempting to buy it, and that Mr Pereira and Mr Hutchinson made a secret profit of £104,000 buying cigars from a company run by Mr Hutchinson's wife.

BICC to use deal to stem German cable loss

By PAUL DURMAN

BICC plans to combine its German cable business with a similar operation owned by NKF of Holland in the hope that the resulting 50-50 joint venture can bring an end to years of losses.

The cables group hinted it was working on a deal at its results last week when it said it was seeking to reduce exposure to the difficult German market, which is suffering from weak prices and overcapacity.

Combining BICC's KWO Kabel and NKF's Kaiser Kabel will create a business with about 1,200 employees, but half of them are set to lose their jobs. BICC will bear the brunt of the job losses with the closure of KWO's energy cable factory and head office in Berlin, which employs 470 people.

A BICC spokesman said the job losses were "regrettable", but added: "It's hopefully a good and imaginative deal. Our ability to stay in the German market will pay off ultimately."

The renamed Kaiser KWO Kabel will have about a quarter of the German market for utility energy cables and more than 35 per cent of the metallic telephone cable business. BICC said this would put it on a par with Siemens though it would still be smaller than Alcatel Alsthom. Despite its recent problems, Germany remains by far the biggest European market for cables.

KWO has already shed 1,300 staff as it was cut back to what BICC previously believed was the minimum effective size of 700 employees. KWO made pre-tax losses of £13 million last year on sales of about £100 million, but this ignores earlier restructuring costs. KWO has been losing money since 1994 and BICC does not expect the joint venture to return to profit before the end of next year at the earliest. After withdrawing from some product lines, BICC expects Kaiser KWO to end up with turnover of close to £150 million.

The City liked the deal, and BICC's shares rose 8p to 177½p. The cables group said the estimated £15 million cost of rationalising the German business will be charged to this year's results. There will also be a balance sheet writedown of a similar size of the £52 million of net assets that BICC will transfer to Kaiser KWO Kabel.

M&S adds three stores in Germany

MARKS & SPENCER is to open three more branches in Germany after the success of its Cologne opening, its first in the country, last year (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Three stores bought from Cramer & Meermann, a regional German retailer, in Dortmund, Essen and Wuppertal, are to be refitted at a cost of DM60 million (£20.5 million) and opened as Marks & Spencer in the early autumn of 1998. Marks & Spencer aims to

open up to 20 stores in Germany, according to Clive Nickolds, division director for European stores. It hopes to have ten open there by the turn of the century.

It will take possession of the three newly acquired stores, which range from 40,000 sq ft to 60,000 sq ft, in March. The company operates 36 wholly owned stores and 55 franchise stores on the Continent. Turnover in the region last year was £552 million.

Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from the start of business on 22nd August 1997 the following **Business Cheque and Deposit rates** are applicable to the accounts set out below:

Rate per Annum
GROSS % GROSS %
C.A.R. %

Business Interest Cheque Account

Instant Access Cheque Account

£250,000+	3.60	3.65
£100,000-249,999	3.20	3.24
£50,000-99,999	2.70	2.73
£10,000-49,999	2.35	2.37
£2,000-9,999	1.90	1.91
£1-1,999	1.20	1.21

Schools Banking Account

	4.95	5.04
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Capital Reserve Account**

£250,000+	5.70	5.82
£100,000-249,999	5.50	5.61
£50,000-99,999	5.20	5.30
£10,000-49,999	4.80	4.89
£2,000-9,999	4.40	4.47
£1-1,999	4.40	4.47

Practice Call Account†

	5.30	5.41
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Designated Clients Account

£100,000+	5.30	5.41
£50,000-99,999	5.10	5.20
£10,000-49,999	4.85	4.94
£2,000-9,999	3.45	3.49
£1-1,999	1.95	1.96

Business Call Account

£250,000+	4.30	4.37
£50,000-249,999	4.10	4.16
£10,000-49,999	3.75	3.80
£1,000-9,999	3.45	3.49
£1-999	3.20	3.24

TSB We want you to say YES

*Interest rates are variable. Interest paid quarterly.
**Before deduction of income tax at the lower rate.
†7 days notice of withdrawal required or equivalent loss of interest on amount withdrawn. Minimum balance £2,000.

TSB Bank plc, Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1LQ.

TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JH.

Boosey & Hawkes price off key over talks

By JON ASHWORTH



Richard Holland, Boosey & Hawkes chief executive

SHARES in Boosey & Hawkes slipped back yesterday as the music company sounded a flat note on takeover talks.

The UK's best-known music publisher and instrument maker said that talks about a possible sale were continuing and that it was not yet possible to give a price for any public offer for the shares. Carl Fischer, a New York music publisher, is seeking to sell its 45.3 per cent stake in Boosey & Hawkes, raising the spectre of a break-up bid for the company.

Representatives of British composers, including Britten, Elgar, Holst and Delius, say that such a move would do "irreparable" damage to the British

music industry. In a letter to *The Times* published last month, they gave warning that loss of the company's independence could have far-reaching consequences for those involved in serious and educational music, affecting generations of composers, performers and audiences.

EMI, PolyGram, Sony and Bertelsmann, the German media group, are all thought to be preparing offers for the company, which is valued at about £200 million. Another possibility sees instrument makers such as Yamaha, of Japan, and Steinway-Selmer, of America, bidding in concert with one of the music publishers. Carl Fischer is being advised by Credit Suisse First Boston.

Boosey & Hawkes is thought to have

issued its statement at the behest of the Takeover Panel, which will have expressed alarm at the recent steep climb in the share price. The shares leapt from 800p to 1,062½p on reports of an imminent deal, but fell back yesterday to close at 1,000p.

Boosey & Hawkes is the world's leading publisher of 20th-century classical music, with copyrights on composers such as Stravinsky, Richard Strauss and Rachmaninov. In a hint of what may ensue, the Rachmaninov heirs have filed a suit against EMI Music Publishing for allegedly failing to exploit the composer's catalogue. Boosey & Hawkes publishes most of Rachmaninov's works, but EMI has the copyright on some of his last ones.

STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

'Undervalued' BT jumps 29p on new MCI talks

BT MOVED up to pole position as speculation about its proposed merger with MCI set the phone lines buzzing once again.

The shares leapt 29p to 412.5p as nearly 70 million changed hands, making it both the highest riser among FTSE 100 stocks and the most heavily traded.

The rise was triggered by the news that the two groups were back around the table, reviewing the original terms of their agreement. While sparking concern that the whole deal could be off, dealers banked on hopes that BT will emerge with a better, cheaper deal.

BT was further lifted by positive broker talk as SGST put out a buy recommendation, saying that BT was undervalued in the light of renegotiation taking place. BT's price was also said to be supported by arbitrageurs buying in the US, while in contrast MCI fell sharply as Wall Street opened.

Profit-taking elsewhere in the market creamed off some of the gains seen in the past few days. News that the Bundesbank had left German interest rates unchanged was expected but provided extra reassurance for the market.

With little else of substance to drive prices, London again was susceptible to Wall Street's influence. After an opening bounce of 35 points after the overnight rise in the Dow, shares drifted. At the close the FTSE 100 was 19.6 ahead, at 4,975. Volumes were thin at 680 million.

Banks ran into some resistance after their recent run, with some traders keen to take profits or switch into other sector stocks. HSBC fell 33p to £21.75, while Barclays dropped 15p to £14.10 and Standard Chartered closed 12p lower at £10.45.

Halfway through first-half profits in line with forecasts though there was some disappointment that the bank has no present plans to return any of its cash pile to shareholders. The shares ended 15p lower at 721p, the biggest fall among FTSE 100 shares.

Bucking the trend was the Alliance & Leicester, which put on 10p to 632p, helped by a broker recommendation. The Woolwich put on a penny at 245p.

The electricity generators enjoyed further rises in the light of the electricity regula-



A big drop in storm damage claims lifted insurance shares

tor's lower than expected price cuts. PowerGen rose 13p to 774p, while British Energy was up 4p to 170p and National Power up 7p to 546p.

Insurers notched up gains after new figures from the Association of British Insurers showed a 20 per cent fall in household claims in the first half. Weather damage claims fell sharply, down 41 per cent

though subsidence claims were up 30 per cent.

General Accident rose 15p to 547p and Royal Sun Alliance 7p to 547p. GRE put on 4p to 285p as Independent Insurance climbed 12p to a record £10.30, after recent recommendations on the shares.

Wednesday's buoyant retail sales figures, reflecting the impact of windfall spending,

helped Dixons to climb 23p to 662p. Analysts at Salomon Brothers, the brokers, have set a target price of 665p.

Asda rose 41p to 154p, a new high point, while WH Smith, which reports year-end results next week, made further progress, putting on 10p to 283p.

Laura Ashley put on 11p to 59p and Oasis 13p to 279p after recent recommendations. Concern over Tesco selling out price Adidas sportswear continued to trim JTB Sports, off 4p to 468p.

Ladbroke, ahead of next week's figures, climbed 9p to 260p, while pharmaceutical stocks were also sought after, reported dealers. Zeneca jumped 24p to £19.79 and Glaxo Wellcome was ahead 16p to £12.65. SmithKline Beecham had an eventful day following news that it is facing a multimillion dollar legal action in the US. Its shares put on 28p at one point but ended 12p down at £11.34.

Weir Group, after recent strong results and further broker support, climbed 6p to 280p, topping its best levels so far this year.

Save Group, the independent petrol retailer, rose 10p to 70p, in reaction to news of Shell's interest in rival Gulf outlets.

Ransomes, the lawn mower manufacturer, accelerated 22p to 51p after news of a bid approach, while Boosey & Hawkes, after its recent meteoric rise, fell back 62p to £10.

Among AIM stocks Prestbury Leisure dipped 4p to 21p after raising £140,000 via a placing of 6.3 million shares. The group has recently been linked to suggestions of a reverse takeover by Domino's Pizza. Tradeprice was also snapped up, rising 81p to 93p, while extension of its police contract lifted Tracker Network 10p to 512p.

GIIT-EDGED: Economic data led the gilt market neither shaken nor stirred and the September future was confined to a narrow range. It closed at its lowest for the day, at £114.32, down 52p, on volume of 53,000.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 ended 12p at £110.32, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 closed down 52p to £102.31.

NEW YORK: Profit-taking led to blue chips tumbling in late morning trading and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 65.90 points lower at 7,955.27.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 7955.27 (+65.90)

S&P Composite 933.38 (+3.97)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average 19157.12 (+65.1)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng 15654.03 (+201.4)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index 980.29 (+4.3)

Sydney:

ASX 2649.70 (+10.0)

Frankfurt:

DAX 4253.67 (+30.2)

Singapore:

Straits 1946.57 (+2.0)

Brussels:

General 13754.06 (+4.0)

Paris:

CAC-40 2957.21 (+22.0)

Zurich:

SIX 4215.80 (+1.5)

London:

FTSE 100 4975.00 (+19.6)

FTSE 250 4688.00 (+0.0)

FTSE 1000 2568.30 (+1.7)

FTSE All-Share 2342.50 (+7.9)

FTSE Non Financials 136.12 (+0.02)

FTSE Govt 500 1587.10 (+0.02)

FTSE Govt 100 1587.10 (+0.02)

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TEMPUS

Much money, little time

MIKE BLACKBURN

MIKE BLACKBURN has £3.5 billion burning a hole in his pocket, the legacy from the former society's recent flotation. The Halifax chief executive must soon find a use for this if he is to maximise returns to shareholders.

Each day the cash languishes on the balance sheet represents a loss in revenue. It will only earn around 4 per cent net - theoretically much less than the return that could be made if it was spent on another financial services company that offered extensive scope for cost-cutting.

With the pace of financial companies, including the Halifax, reaching record levels, Mr Blackburn may find it hard to overcome his Lancastrian aversion to overpaying. TSB should serve as an awful reminder. An abundance of cash pushed TSB into buying Target Life and Hill Samuel at the top of the market a decade ago. Both proved to be horrible mistakes.

Instead of squandering money in a topy market, the Halifax could consider a share buy back - and says it is willing to do so. However, this prospect is complicated by the 70 per cent of Halifax shares still owned by private individuals. Institutions have only just bought the other 30 per cent, and many are still looking to add to their positions in this new FTSE 100 stock.

The Halifax's only other alternative is to pay a special dividend. The bank seems to content to sit on the cash for a while, as the institutions do not yet yield enough power to force its hand. But investors should hold on to their shares, because at some point over the next 12 months the cash position will have to be resolved.

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With the pace of financial companies, including the Halifax, reaching record levels, Mr Blackburn may find it hard to overcome his Lancastrian aversion to overpaying. TSB should serve as an awful reminder. An abundance of cash pushed TSB into buying Target Life and Hill Samuel at the top of the market a decade ago. Both proved to be horrible mistakes.

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TEMPUS

Much money, little time

MIKE BLACKBURN

Brown maintains relentless pace after manic start as Chancellor

THE WHITEHALL REVOLUTION

By Robert Miller

WHEN Gordon Brown and his team strode into the Treasury on the afternoon of Friday, May 2, they found the wide-sweeping Whitehall stairway lined with civil servants to cheer them in. That arrival set the scene and the mood for what followed.

No one, except perhaps the very heart of the Labour Shadow Cabinet, could possibly have foreseen the manic pace that Mr Brown would set in his first few weeks as Chancellor of the Exchequer. But looking back people should not be so surprised. Here was a man who had been waiting in the wings for years and now had the chance to prove his mettle, and as the keeper of the nation's purse strings he needed to set out his stall decisively.

A hint of what was to follow came when "Eddie" George, Governor of the Bank of England, travelled from his Dulwich home on Spring Bank Holiday Monday for what he thought was a briefing. The Chancellor told Mr George he would announce the next day that he was granting the Bank its deepest wish: the independence to set interest rates free from political interference. The Governor understood that as a result of his longed-for freedom he would, at some stage, have to relinquish the bank supervision role. It was this point that was later to cause one of the first hiccups.

The Treasury with its 900 civil servants is the hub of Government and covers one of the largest and most diverse patches, such as financial services regulation, banking, National Savings, gifts, and, of course, the annual Budget.

Labour acknowledged the importance of safeguarding the coffers and cutting any agreed - City or market - qualms before the election by confirming that Mr Brown would indeed be Chancellor and that Alistair Darling, his able and trusted Shadow Chief Secretary, would occupy the same position. With Ed Balls, their special advisers, they set to work immediately after the landslide victory. So too did Charlie Whelan, Mr Brown's combative press adviser. How they went about their tasks set the tone for how Labour intended to run things in the future.

Labour press advisers would oversee the selling of the political message and put the necessary spin on stories while the Treasury press office would sell the nuts and bolts of the numerous policy statements. Despite initial confusion, the system appears to have worked well. Such devotion to detail even extended to sartorial matters when Mr Brown let it be known that for the Mansion

House speech, he at least would wear a working-day suit rather than traditional evening dress.

The rest of the Treasury team was quickly assembled with Shadow team member Dawn Primarolo becoming Financial Secretary. Geoffrey Robinson assuming the mantle of Paymaster General, and Helen Liddell taking on the role of Economic Secretary.

After the Bank of England announcement the Treasury team set to work with a vengeance. With Mr Brown's blessing Mrs Liddell launched a full-scale and well-orchestrated campaign to bring to book the life offices that mis-sold personal pensions. The companies were summoned to the Treasury where the facts of life under new Labour were spelt out. No more foot-dragging, report back in a month, then laggards would be named and shamed. There was little sympathy for persistent offenders in the City and a great deal of support from almost everywhere else.

At the same time as preparing for a maiden Budget the Treasury team moved relentlessly forward. A second Bank of England Deputy Governor would be appointed; one would be responsible for monetary and interest rate policy, the other would safeguard the financial stability of the markets. An economic monetary policy committee, chaired by the Governor, would set interest rates. More announcements as the posts were filled. But the Treasury can only be as efficient as its money-raising powers, and with some of the plans that Labour have in mind this is likely to involve a redistribution of spending budgets throughout the Whitehall ministries. The answer?

THE TREASURY TEAM



GEOFFREY ROBINSON: Paymaster General. Aged 59, MP for Coventry North West. Owner of numerous houses, including the Tuscany villa where the Blair holidays. Proprietor of the New Statesman. Entered Parliament in 1976 following a stint as chief executive of Jaguar Cars. Has previously been Shadow Spokesman on Trade and Industry, as well as science.



GORDON BROWN: Chancellor of the Exchequer. Aged 46, MP for Don Valley East since 1983. Stood aside in Labour leadership battle and backed close friend Tony Blair. Regarded as a calm and often impatient, the former journalist impressed the City with the speed with which he acted on taking office. Of all the Cabinet, Brown enjoys the greatest freedom from outside interference and central controls.



ALISTAIR DARLING: Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Aged 43, MP for Edinburgh Central. A qualified advocate, Darling joined the Shadow Treasury team in 1992 and rapidly earned the respect of the City for his mastery of a complex brief. Is the driving force behind the reforms of regulation and is seen as the steady influence in the Treasury line-up.



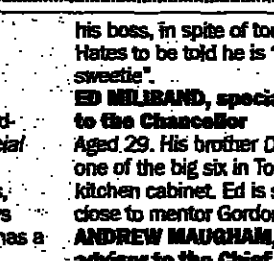
DAWN PRIMAROLO: Financial Secretary to the Treasury. Aged 43, MP for Bristol South. Joined the Shadow Treasury team in 1994 after a period on health and serving on the Members' Interests Select Committee. She has taken on one of the most complex Whitehall briefs, involving all aspects of the tax system. Highly rated by normally hardened mandarins.



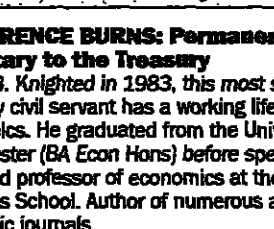
ED BALLS: Chancellor's economic adviser. Aged 30, Oxford and Harvard educated, this former Financial Times leader writer joined Brown's team in 1994. Balls, who plays football and enjoys 20th century choral music, has a pivotal role in making policy.



CHARLIE WHELAN: Chancellor's press adviser. Aged 44, the chain-smoking, abrasive Treasury spin-doctor, is shrewd and completely loyal to his boss, in spite of tough image. Hates to be told he is "a swartie".



ED MILIBAND: special adviser to the Chancellor. Aged 29. His brother David is one of the big six in Tony Blair's kitchen cabinet. Ed is similarly close to mentor Gordon Brown.



ANDREW MAUGHAN: special adviser to the Chief Secretary. One of the most able and dedicated members of the Shadow team. His appointment was just reward for a loyal foot soldier.



HELEN LIDDELL: Economic Secretary to the Treasury. Aged 46, MP for Airdrie & Shotts. Won the Monkslands East by-election caused by the death of Labour leader John Smith in 1994. The former head of public affairs for the Maxwell-owned Scottish Daily Record made her mark quickly by summing pension mis-sellers to the Treasury for a dressing down. Hugely energetic.

Mr Darling's Comprehensive Spending Review which would, he said, "allow the Government to bring public spending programmes into line with its priorities and objectives. It will be truly comprehensive, embracing all items of public expenditure."

Like many other of this Government's initiatives the real reforms can only begin when the committee reports in a year's time. So having got

that up and running attention was turned to the most vexed problems facing all Governments, whatever their political persuasion, namely unemployment, poverty and welfare dependency, and looking at what part the taxation system can play in the process. The method? Persuade Martin Taylor, the bright and personable chief executive of Barclays Bank, to head a Whitehall Task Force on tax

and benefits, also to report in a year's time. As part of its role in solving the unemployment problem Mr Brown co-hosted a series of breakfasts for business leaders with David Blunkett and other senior ministers. To what their appetite the Treasury came up with some cash to fund the New Deal to offer financial incentives to companies and other organisations to provide jobs for the young

and long-term unemployed. And just in case Geoffrey Robinson was feeling that the Paymaster General's department had been left out he was told to resurrect the Private Finance Initiative to convince the private sector that they could do business with this Government.

The Budget contained some unpalatable tax medicine for pension funds, the consequences of which are still being assessed. But the move on pension funds had been widely trailed beforehand and was in terms of media management not such a shock to the City as it might have been.

Mr Darling's pet project is overseeing the reform of City regulation under the management of Howard Davies, the former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. And while Dawn Primarolo's Treasury colleagues appear to have the headline-grabbing jobs, she has been beavering away on nitty gritty tax issues.

The level of support in the City for nearly all the Treasury's moves to date has been strong. But the Treasury machine should avoid upsetting the markets as it did when Mr George was surprised by the speed with which banking regulation was to be stripped from the Bank. He had just reassured his 490 staff that he believed there would be full consultation. He blew his top, but soon recovered. Hints were dropped (not from the Treasury) that Mr George had little chance of being reappointed next year and that Gavin Davies, the City economist and long-time friend of Mr Brown, would get the job.

In the first, and almost only, wobble since the new Treasury masters arrived in Whitehall the City let it be known that it was not keen on the idea and it seems to have withered on the vine - at least for now.

Newrotic

THE plans for the super-SIB, or Newro as I am supposed to call it, are gathering pace now that McKinsey, the management consultant, is on the case. But their ramifications on the future of City regulation are really hush hush. A reader phoned McKinsey asking to speak to someone working on the super-SIB project to be told: "I am sure you are aware I cannot tell you who we are acting for or not acting for." Well, who should a letter be sent to on the matter? "Oh, Allen Watson. Head of banking."

JASON NISSÉ



"They're worried about overcharging. Wait till they see the lawyers' fees!"

Ground rules

LORD HOLLICK, who has been telling all and sundry that he never really wanted to buy Ulster TV now that Scottish Media has snapped up 29.9 per cent of the TV group, is causing a bit of bother in Leeds, I hear.

Staff at the Yorkshire Post, part of the good Lord's United News & Media empire, are up in arms because they have been told that their central Leeds playing fields are to be sold for redevelopment as a business park.

The employees are claiming that there is a covenant from a previous owner leaving the fields for permanent use as a sports ground. "We know nothing of this," a Hollick minion tells me. "Some of



I notice that Manchester City, the football team of choice for Oasis's Gallagher brothers, has struck a deal with the publicity shy Richard Branson. Apparently Virgin Trains is to run special services ferrying City fans to away matches and will actually sponsor three of the struggling First Division side's games this season.

The first of these locomotives will run to the metropolis for next month's game against Queens Park Rangers, another side with musical connections. It is chaired by Chris Wright, who made his money bringing the likes of Genesis to a wider audience. Virgin's plan is to reintroduce the old "football specials" - famous for Watney's Red Barrel and excessive violence. But given Virgin Trains' punctuality record, City fans will be lucky to arrive at the match before the final whistle.

Leading truth

THE revelation, in this column earlier this week, that Bill Cockburn is taking a well earned rest after a good 21 months as chief executive of WH Smith means the spotlight will turn on Jeremy Hardie. He is not only trying to find a new chief executive but also will present the confused retailer's figures next week. For those who might confuse Smith's chairman with the cardigan wearing comic recently seen on TV in the company of Jack Dee, here is a refresher on his career.

A former seaman, Hardie was an Oxford economics don for seven years before becoming an accountant. Thence to

John Swire, the Oriental trader, and the MMC. This was ideal training for when, three-and-a-half years ago, he became the first Smith's chairman for 202 years, to come from outside the founding families.

Hardie immediately showed an appreciation of the job saying: "You meet a lot of famous people." But Hardie's great claim to fame was as Social Democratic Party candidate for Norwich South in the 1983 and 1987 elections. He was soundly trounced both times. Speaking of the SDP, Hardie said: "It had excellent leadership... but it failed comprehensively." Spot the similarities with WH Smith.

PERHAPS Hardie - who was captain of "a peculiar kind of football" as a schoolboy at Winchester - might come to the aid of England's cricket team. After all, it has hardly responded to the Tesco approach. Maybe it is time for the WH Smith approach.

Be here soon

PICKING my way through the queues of spotty adolescents crowding out my local record shop as they attempt to purchase the new record by the popular beat combo Oasis,



Jeremy Hardie said the SDP failed despite excellent leadership

A maverick poised on the verge of greatness

Fraser Nelson assesses the rise of a young media mogul

Within the next three weeks, Dan Wagner could become the youngest international media mogul in history. MAID, the on-line information company he set up only 12 years ago, is on the verge of pulling off an audacious £300 million takeover of Knight-Ridder, the largest business information house in America.

If the move succeeds, the 34-year-old maverick will find himself in the same league as Reuters, Reed Elsevier and Bloomberg - with every chance of overtaking them to become one of the world's most powerful information barons.

His business is described as media, but not as we know it. MAID, an acronym for Market Analysis Information Database, is basically a glorified electronic library which contains everything from brokers' notes to press agency bulletins.

The larger the database, the more valuable it becomes to analysts and advertising houses who need to pull out obscure information for complicated reports. With the addition of Knight-Ridder - which boasts 20,000 customers across 150 countries, MAID would lay claim to becoming the most comprehensive database of its kind.

Some titles still elude its grasp. The Financial Times has refused access to any of its articles even though Pearson, its parent company, has granted access to the Economist Intelligence Unit and its part-owned Exel news wire. When five FT articles found their way on MAID via Exel, the

a marketing company, was astonished at how much effort was ploughed into research when computers could do the job a lot quicker. At the age of 21, he quit to set up one himself. He is admired for his strategic vision, ability to second-guess the market and move in position, hedging his bets just in time. The formula has so far served him well: by making MAID's databases accessible through the Internet on any PC with no extra kit needed. It has also invested millions in its flagship indexing system. There is no question that if MAID does merge with Knight-Ridder, Mr Wagner will still stay at the helm - even though his company is valued at £170 million.

It will be a kind of spiritual homecoming. Mr Wagner has always said his biggest mistake was to set up shop in Britain rather than in America. "I grossly underestimated the reluctance of UK marketing and advertising companies to take on something new, especially something which involved computers," he once said. "It nearly sunk MAID there and then."

Britain has not been unkind to Mr Wagner. He enjoys a £140,000-a-year salary, owns two Aston Martins and has a stake in the company worth some £35 million. This time next month, he could find himself sitting on top of a £500 million giant that dwarfs every other on-line business information provider in the world.

He throws three huge staff parties with the instruction: dress funky

against Knight's £300 million.

Sealing the acquisition should silence his many critics. In the more sceptical corners of the City, his slicked-back hair and big grin draw more comparisons with Andrew Regan, who came to grief with his bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society, than with the great and the good. Image has never been Mr Wagner's strong point. When MAID floated in 1993, he presented himself to the City in a penguin waistcoat - and came across as a teenage chancer rather than an industrial heavyweight. He still takes pride in doing things his way. He throws

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Modest gains in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	PE	1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES													
1251	1251	1251	1251	1251	1251	1251	1251	1251	1251	1251	1251	1251	1251
BANKS													
1252	1252	1252	1252	1252	1252	1252	1252	1252	1252	1252	1252	1252	1252
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST													
1253	1253	1253	1253	1253	1253	1253	1253	1253	1253	1253	1253	1253	1253
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS													
1254	1254	1254	1254	1254	1254	1254	1254	1254	1254	1254	1254	1254	1254
FOOD MANUFACTURERS													
1255	1255	1255	1255	1255	1255	1255	1255	1255	1255	1255	1255	1255	1255
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT													
1256	1256	1256	1256	1256	1256	1256	1256	1256	1256	1256	1256	1256	1256
ELECTRICITY													
1257	1257	1257	1257	1257	1257	1257	1257	1257	1257	1257	1257	1257	1257
ELECTRONIC & ELECT													
1258	1258	1258	1258	1258	1258	1258	1258	1258	1258	1258	1258	1258	1258
HOUSEHOLD GOODS													
1259	1259	1259	1259	1259	1259	1259	1259	1259	1259	1259	1259	1259	1259
INSURANCE													
1260	1260	1260	1260	1260	1260	1260	1260	1260	1260	1260	1260	1260	1260
INVESTMENT TRUSTS													
1261	1261	1261	1261	1261	1261	1261	1261	1261	1261	1261	1261	1261	1261
CHEMICALS													
1262	1262	1262	1262	1262	1262	1262	1262	1262	1262	1262	1262	1262	1262
DISTRIBUTORS													
1263	1263	1263	1263	1263	1263	1263	1263	1263	1263	1263	1263	1263	1263

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	PE	1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	PE
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES													
1264	1264	1264	1264	1264	1264	1264	1264	1264	1264	1264	1264	1264	1264
LEISURE & HOTELS													
1265	1265	1265	1265	1265	1265	1265	1265	1265	1265	1265	1265	1265	1265
MINING													
1266	1266	1266	1266	1266	1266	1266	1266	1266	1266	1266	1266	1266	1266
PROPERTY													
1267	1267	1267	1267	1267	1267	1267	1267	1267	1267	1267	1267	1267	1267
TELECOMMUNICATIONS													
1268	1268	1268	1268	1268	1268	1268	1268	1268	1268	1268	1268	1268	1268
TEXTILES & APPAREL													
1269	1269	1269	1269	1269	1269	1269	1269	1269	1269	1269	1269	1269	1269
OIL & GAS													
1270	1270	1270	1270	1270	1270	1270	1270	1270	1270	1270	1270	1270	1270
OTHER FINANCIAL													
1271	1271	1271	1271	1271	1271	1271	1271	1271	1271	1271	1271	1271	1271
MEDIA													
1272	1272	1272	1272	1272	1272	1272	1272	1272	1272	1272	1272	1272	1272
BRITISH FUNDS													
1273	1273	1273	1273	1273	1273	1273	1273	1273	1273	1273	1273	1273	1273
SHORTS (under 5 years)													
1274	1274	1274	1274	1274	1274	1274	1274	1274	1274	1274	1274	1274	1274
LONGS (over 15 years)													
1275	1275	1275	1275	1275	1275	1275	1275	1275	1275	1275	1275	1275	1275
UNDATED													
1276	1276	1276	1276	1276	1276	1276	1276	1276	1276	1276	1276	1276	1276
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of													
1277	1277	1277	1277	1277	1277	1277	1277	1277	1277	1277	1277	1277	1277
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)													
1278	1278	1278	1278	1278	1278	1278	1278	1278	1278	1278	1278	1278	1278

1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	PE	1997	Low	High	Company	Price	Yield	PE
PHARMACEUTICALS													
1279	1279	1279	1279	1279	1279	1279	1279	1279	1279	1279	1279	1279	1279
SUPPORT SERVICES													
1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280	1280
PRINTING & PAPER													
1281	1281	1281	1281	1281	1281	1281	1281	1281	1281	1281	1281	1281	1281
PROPERTY													
1282	1282	1282	1282	1282	1282	1282	1282	1282	1282	1282	1282	1282	1282
TELECOMMUNICATIONS													
1283	1283	1283	1283	1283	1283	1283	1283	1283	1283	1283	1283	1283	1283
TEXTILES & APPAREL													
1284	1284	1284	1284	1284	1284	1284	1284	1284	1284	1284	1284	1284	1284
OIL & GAS													
1285	1285	1285	1285	1285	1285	1285	1285	1285	1285	1285	1285	1285	1285
OTHER FINANCIAL													
1286	1286	1286	1286	1286	1286	1286	1286	1286	1286	1286	1286	1286	1286
MEDIA													
1287	1287	1287	1287	1287	1287	1287	1287	1287	1287	1287	1287	1287	1287
BRITISH FUNDS													
1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288	1288
SHORTS (under 5 years)													
1289	1289	1289	1289	1289	1289	1289	1289	1289	1289	1289	1289	1289	1289
LONGS (over 15 years)													
1290	1290	1290	1290	1290	1290	1290	1290	1290	1290	1290	1290	1290	1290
UNDATED													
1291	1291	1291	1291	1291	1291	1291	1291	1291	1291	1291	1291	1291	1291
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of													
1292	1292	1292	1292	1292	1292	1292	1292	1292	1292	1292	1292	1292	1292
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)													
1293	1293	1293	1293	1293	1293	1293	1293	1293	1293	1293	1293	1293	1293

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The camp original vindicated

It has certainly been the year of original versions — all those first thoughts by Verdi at Covent Garden, and a spruce, cleaned-up *Lucia* at Edinburgh earlier in the week. The first version of *Ariadne*, in which Strauss's opera follows Hoffmann's version of *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, is perfectly wonderful and perfectly impossible. It was devised in 1912 for the sort of court theatre ensemble of actors, singers, dancers and musicians that does not exist any more, even then, composer and librettist saw that it was impractical and were right to turn it into the through-composed opera we know today. But it is ideal festival fare — Strauss's incidental music for the Molière is alone reason for the occasional airing — and the Edinburgh staging by the combined forces of Scottish Opera and the Nottingham Playhouse (sponsored by ATR) is sheer delight from beginning to end.

For a start, they do it all (Glyndebourne's Edinburgh version nearly 50 years ago was heavily cut) and it is a long evening, but seldom can nearly four hours in the theatre have passed so swiftly, and so enjoyably. Jeremy Sams's new translation catches Hoffmann's peculiarly camp humour to a T, and adds a surrealist lunacy all of its own when the Philosopher reaches Jourdain the

OPERA

Ariadne auf Naxos

Festival Theatre

letters of the alphabet — you really have to listen as the jokes come tumbling over each other.

Martin Duncan's pacy direction bustles along in Tim Harley's lavishly nouveau riche designs. Here too there are moments of surrealism, like the kitchen boy who thinks he's a Chippendale.

While there are no dancers as such, the hard-working Nottingham actors, doubling many a role, can certainly shake a nifty leg for the choreographer Sean Walsh.

Duncan's witty interplay between singers and comedians in the opera is especially

successful: the ironic detachment is throughout sharper in this version, with Jourdain-as-stage-audience complaining loudly that Ariadne's Lament is boring (Strauss didn't change a note in the revision).

Sam Kelly's Jourdain has the ruefulness of a Clive Dunn, plays the audience as shamelessly as Frankie Howard, and commands a sympathy all his own, surrounded as he is by frauds and spongers. Gillian Hanna and Mary Roscoe are a guinea a minute as his foul-mouthed wife and long-suffering maid.



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL



Playing for laughs in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Strauss's surreal piece of lunacy: rear, David Stephenson, Andrew Slater; front, Richard Coxon, Lisa Saffer and David Owen

In the pit, Richard Armstrong brings the lightest of touches to the incidental music and coaxes sonorities of deepest Tyrian purple from his willing orchestra at the end of the opera. Anne Evans sings with

her own very special brand of musicianship as Ariadne, and enjoys herself hugely as a Welsh prima donna prone to diplomatic migraines in the play. The role of Zerbinetta was both longer and

higher in 1912 — all Strauss's subsequent cuts were quite frankly for the better (he could go on a bit, as Jourdain remarks) — but Lisa Saffer makes light of the technical difficulties. John Horton Murray,

Garsington's Menelaus, makes a robust, naively boyish Bacchus. Good Nymphs (Echo gets some uncanonical echo jokes in the play) and sprightly commedia.

Truly an evening for connoisseurs. Wednesday's first night was not quite full, so a trip to Edinburgh tonight or on Sunday is most earnestly recommended.

RODNEY MILNES

In brave new heart

Maybe it was a more complimentary repertoire. Or maybe it was just a good night's sleep. Whatever it was, it made all the difference when San Francisco Ballet unveiled its second Edinburgh Festival programme on Wednesday night. Here was a company happy to be dancing and, unlike the night before, dancing on form.

New choreography was the order of the day — nothing more than a decade old — with two of the pieces having been made for San Francisco Ballet. The exception was Mark Morris's *Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes*, a pointe shoe ballet created in 1988 for American Ballet Theatre and taken into the San Francisco repertoire only last year.

Choreographed for an ensemble of 12 to 13 piano études (pianist Daniel Waites) by Virgil Thomson, *Drink* embraces the drill of the classroom and then sets its disciplined students free to pursue spontaneous and abundantly affectionate dancing. In terms of performance this was the weakest of the three, but that did not stop us appreciating Morris's wonderfully sanguine writing.

It was an altogether more distinctive company which gave us *Cris-Cross*, created for San Francisco earlier this year by its artistic director Helgi Tomasson. The choreography, which comes in two antithetical sections, starts Baroque and finishes modern. The music, Scarlatti arranged by Charles Avison and Schoenberg (after Handel), is equally contradictory.

The jump across the centuries is reflected in the choreography's demeanour: decorative and agreeable at the start, loose and sensually outspoken at the end. The choreography may not be particularly innovative or even persuasive, but the dancers seem to like it, none more so than Roman Rykin (formerly with English National Ballet), here looking very strong indeed.

David Bintley, artistic director of Birmingham Royal Ballet, has made several pieces for San Francisco. The latest, 1995's *The Dance House*, to Shostakovich's Concerto for Piano, Trumpet and Strings, received its British premiere on Wednesday night. Bintley made it after the death of a friend suffering from AIDS, but although *The Dance House* is shadowed by AIDS (if nothing else, Robert Heindel's coded costumes tell us that), it is by no means consumed by it.

Eschewing the forced theatricality that often mars his creations, Bintley has placed his trust in the power of pure movement. And the result is some of the most beautiful, intricate and stirring dance of his career.

There is nothing gimmicky or extraneous: even the figure of Death, a grotesque herald (David Palmer, very good), is part of the transcendent completeness of life which Bintley projects.

The dance of Death awaits us all



Claudia Alfieri and David Palmer in Bintley's *The Dance House*

but, the choreography chimes, that is no reason to deny ourselves rapture while we wait. In going for the very essence of his intended statement, Bintley has produced a

resounding work which reminds us what a brilliant choreographer he can be.

DEBRA CRAINE

AROUND THE EDINBURGH GALLERIES

Work in camera

CONTEMPORARY art is represented with a big show of *Multiples 1965-97* by Gerhard Richter at the Fruitmarket Gallery. It is fascinating to see how Richter started out, particularly in some gloomy, vaguely Abstract Expressionist canvases (not, evidently, multiples) from the early 1960s. But most of the show is taken up with photographic works, more or less manipulated and worked over from an unremarkable original photograph.

Sometimes the effects produced by dragging painted colour over the surface of a black-and-white picture are extraordinary, suggesting a combination of Richter's two most familiar styles, the paintings which reproduce in faithful detail his own photographs, and those which consist of bright colours dragged across the surface of the canvas to suggest a late Monet taken a stage or two further towards Abstraction. On the other hand, there are quite a lot of pieces where one cannot help feeling that Richter's fame is called upon to validate the work, rather than the other way round.

Gerhard Richter is at the Fruitmarket Gallery (0131-225 283) until Sept 27.

THIS year being the fiftieth anniversary of both the Edinburgh Festival and Dior's New Look, the Talbot Rice Gallery of the University of Edinburgh has had the interesting idea of combining the two in one show. *A New Look at 1947*. The link is fairly tenuous, but not completely non-existent. The first festival, dominated by French influence, and one of the stage productions was designed by Bernard, a close associate of Dior, fresh from designing Dior's very first boutique.

Margot Fonteyn, star of the first festival, was one of Dior's first customers, and bought from his first collection the Daisy Suit, exhibited here, which she wore with great aplomb during the festival. The lower floor of the exhibition contains a number of other Dior originals from the 1947 collection, unfortunately shown, for reasons of conservation, in such dark conditions that it is sometimes difficult to make out what all the fuss was about.

Upstairs the festival itself is documented, providing a vivid image of austerely-bound post-war Britain trying valiantly to burst into glamorous international flower.

A New Look at 1947 is at the Talbot Rice Gallery (0131-650 231) until Sept 21.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Delight from under the bushel

Catching the Zeitgeist, and being the Savours of the month are not the same thing in British playwriting. One minute you're the one most likely to, fated by theatre managements and commissioned to the hilt, the next a new crowd has moved in and you're at the back of the queue.

Of course, this has never bothered Howard Barker. Britain's greatest living playwright, who has been shunted off to the sidelines for so long that, if it wasn't for his prolific workrate, you could easily forget that he's still here. Not that *The Wrestling School*, the company set up to rescue his richly dense works from academic hell, are likely to let that happen.

Their production of *Wounds to the Face* (Assembly Rooms) is a provocative work that explores what it means quite literally to lose face. It does this via a series of interlocking narratives that move from cracked mirror, plastic surgeon and assorted scars to Narcissus, *doppelgangers*, 17th-century emperors and men in masks.

Of course, being Barker, the situations are extreme and driven by desire and, while he is never likely to be commissioned for a primetime TV slot, his classical linguistic relict cuts through the chaff and gets to the heart of the matter with a sated eloquence that looks the truth straight in the eye and spits bloody poetry at it.

If you're looking for *Zeitgeist*, you may think you've come to the right place if you see Peter Terson's *Have You Seen This Girl?* (Pleasance), which begins somewhat opportunistically with an Oasis song. Even more sidelined than Barker, Terson has stuck primarily with youth theatre, although his 1960s roots are all over the show in this National Youth Theatre production which traces the causes of a

16-year-old girl's running away from home, disappearance and death. It is classic, large-cast Youth Theatre indulgence, performed with vigour and assurance. But the play seems dated by way of being both a product and a critique of wet liberal values, and in effect bites the hand that feeds it. It's picaresque in style, complete with wiseman "bushers", friendly lollipop ladies and with-it English teachers. But the anachronisms don't stop there. Downfallen child heroine Lisa seems to have run straight out of *Cathy Come Home*. For all the uncomfortably grafted-on alcohol and drug references, it's a play out of time, with Lisa on the run from a period of history she never knew.

Meanwhile, Poland's gorgeous Wiesław Wolski (Theatre Workshop), despite having their set swept away in the recent Polish floods. Rebuilt locally, their typically ramshackle constructions grace this Gothic slice of death and dishonour as, in another dimension, an enraged spirit seeks justice, while in the real world undying love rules the day.

It's steeped in folklore and myth, suffused with a brooding intensity, aided and abetted by choral singing and a liberal use of candles, which compensate for the somewhat shaky English.

Quebecois drama has been flourishing in Scotland for some time now, but *Elephant Wake* (Hill Street), an import from Alberta, seems to capture the full poignancy of a nation in search of where it belongs via its own words. On the surface, it is an ordinary tale of a small town boy Jean Claude, the last man left in the ghost town of St. Verge. He proceeds to paint a delightfully awestruck picture of what was once a thriving community, but has now collectively upped sticks and ditched Hicksville for the Big City.

All life was here all right the spirits of family and friends wandering through Jean Claude's rose-coloured memory. A papier-mâché zoo — in particular a "Chinese elephant" — gives him some kind of focus as the lights go out in Toytown. But when things get beyond his control, Jean Claude must start from scratch and find a bigger and better foundation to call his own.

Jonathan Christenson and Joey Trembley's one-man play, touchingly played by Trembley, is a moving evocation of an already fractured childhood turning even sadder, only to pull through, fleeing muscles it never knew it had.

NEIL COOPER

BBC PROMS: John Allison introduces tomorrow night's British premiere for a leading Russian composer

One of the leaves on the Russian music tree — this is how Rodion Konstantinovich Shchedrin disarmingly describes himself. Soon to turn 65, he is in fact one of the leading Russian composers of the post-Shostakovich generation. But his neat metaphor certainly sums up his place in a great musical tradition. It even recalls — perhaps consciously — Tchaikovsky's remark about the whole Russian symphonic school stemming from Glinka. "Just as the oak is in the acorn".

Though it is easy to romanticise Russian music and relate it all to the peasant-tilled earth, that is indeed the key to much of Shchedrin's modern but easily approachable output. His scintillating *Old Russian Circus Music*, which receives its British premiere in tomorrow night's Prom, is deeply rooted in 19th-century folk culture. "I'm from a poor Russian background. My grandfather was an Orthodox priest in a provincial city. My mental make-up is completely Russian, and I want to be Russian in the music I write. Of course, if commissioned to write a non-Russian piece I could, but that's not the way I like to work. I always compose a new score, and only analyse it afterwards."

Old Russian Circus Music, his Third Concerto for Orchestra, was composed in 1989. As a newly issued Chandos recording reveals, Shchedrin has created a scene in

Echoes of the circus

music that could come out of an old Russian painting: little marionettes to represent parading clowns, solo variations for the tightrope-walker, and fireworks, all framed by the arrival and departure of the circus procession. "In Russia last century, the circus was the most important form of entertainment. It hit towns like an earthquake, amid gunshots and applause, and with it came tears and laughter, broken-hearted girls and jealous husbands."

It's not only in its subject-matter that my piece is old-fashioned. It's an entertainment in the tradition of virtuoso concert music. In our century music has become too serious, and composers have forgotten that virtuosity played an important part in the history of music from before Bach to after Liszt and Paganini. Perhaps it's not what is now considered to be good taste, but I wanted to write a colourful work, in the line of Rimsky-Korsakov and Stravinsky's *Peter and the Wolf*.

There is a heady, optimistic energy about this work that reflects Shchedrin's mood at the time of its composition. "Perestroika led to spiritual freedom, to us being able to move around. Today we can live wherever we like: it's like paradise." The composer now divides his time between Munich and Moscow, one of the Russian cities due to host a festival of his music this December, but remains aware of the problems facing his compatriots today. "It's as bad for the musicians as everyone else. I know of young composers who have been forced to sell their tape-recorders and pianos to stay alive."



Shchedrin: "My mentality is completely Russian"

The anti-conformist Shchedrin graduated from the Moscow Conservatory two years after Stalin's death, and quickly became a skilled operator and musical chameleon. Some works won him praise from Soviet officialdom and the country's top prizes, others were censured. On one hand he could write an oratorio like *Lenin in the People's Heart*, on the other a satirical cantata based on the rules of a Soviet health home, *Byurokratiada*. How his operatic adaptation of Gogol's masterpiece *Dead Souls*, which alluded to conditions under Brezhnev, got to its 1977 Bolshoi Theatre premiere remains a mystery.

"I was never a member of the Party. Yes, I sometimes had to make compromises with the Central Committee, but then so did Shostakovich and Prokofiev. All my premises were the results of big battles."

Even my *Carmen Suite* was forbidden at its second performance and replaced by *The Nutcracker*. I was accused of mocking Bizet and making a prostitute out of the heroine of the Spanish people! But I'm not a soft character, or one of those composers who sits at home waiting for invitations to come along.

Except for the disappointing

post-modern opera *Lolita*, premiered in Stockholm in 1994, all seven of his other operas and ballets had their first performances at the Bolshoi. Not bad going for a man who headed the relatively liberal Russian Union of Composers rather than the more orthodox Union of Soviet Composers run by his rival, the apparatus Tikhon Khrennikov.

Shchedrin's large work-list also includes four piano concertos — he is a brilliant pianist and organist — two symphonies and smaller-scale pieces. The latter are written in styles ranging from Soviet-period Prokofiev to serialism and the "new simplicity".

But he is most famous in the West for his *Carmen Suite*. Why *Carmen*? "My wife Maya Plisetskaya, the Bolshoi prima ballerina to whom I've been married for 39 years, wanted to dance *Carmen*. She asked Shostakovich to write new music, but he said that he was too much in awe of Bizet. She asked Khachaturian, but he was too lazy. So I stepped in. Realising that I couldn't do better than Bizet, I transcribed it for a completely different orchestra of strings and percussion. It took me only 20 days — somebody was dictating it to me from the sky."

Old Russian Circus Music is at the Proms at 7.30pm, tomorrow (Albert Hall, 0171-589 8212), and on a Chandos recording (CHAN 9552).

Been there, done that, sold the tent

Looking forward to the fun and games at the Reading Festival this weekend? Then you are a braver fan than I am

Maybe there are too many pop festivals around at the moment. There was a time when my brain would never have conceived the possibility of that sentence: too many festivals? Too many lovely open-air things, with stalls selling barbecued shark and couscous salad? Too many stages where tiny little bands foz and kick, and the established acts roll out all the stage lights and fireworks in the world? Too many mornings of waking up with a feeling of having attended Woodstock... on the Moon?

Too much of that? That would be like feasting too much. (Which, rumour has it, leads to hyperventilation, but you get the idea.) In days of yore (yore being four years ago), there were really only two festivals. Glastonbury (Elysian fields, men dressed in fried egg costumes, Christmas for true believers in the faith of pop'n'rock) and Reading (industrial site outside the town, back to school next week, better get very drunk and get Prolapse, to sign my leg in the signing tent). And, because there were only two, one subconsciously presumed that festivals weren't a particularly lucrative thing for Men of Business to invest in, and going along felt like paying some kind of indie tax - £5 to keep it and Cud alive for the winter? Bargain.

Now, though, when we also have Phoenix, T in the Park and V97, it's become blatantly obvious that festivals must be a pot of gold. Suited fellas with flipchart suits sit around in the bleak midwinter, staring at projected earnings spread-sheets, muttering: "They'll be so drunk they'll cough up for an amusing £15 jester's hat. We'll hold it in July, and it will be named Profit in the Park. What are the Prodigy doing?"

CAITLIN MORAN

And so events such as last weekend's V97 (there'll be a couple of fraught meetings when we get to the year 2000, V90 sounds like the noise a sarcastic German ghost might make) didn't feel at all like a festival, merely a big gig in a park. Blur played a set of their most audience-unfriendly songs, and Damon Albarn's demonic gurning suggested that he was trying to exact revenge on them for having bought more Oasis than Blur records in the past year. About 10,000 people walked away halfway through, as Ash were on the other stage, and haven't yet reached the point of career cynicism where playing your most loved songs would be seen as "weak".

Disappointment was assuaged, however, by the Divine Comedy's glorious hour of impassioned Brechtian drama and elegant pop nous. However, as always, things got sticky when the bars shut and the audience entered the area of "not being financially viable any more". Festival organisers must hate their audiences when their wallets shut.

Last year's T in the Park was truly disgusting in that respect, with campsites a mile away from the festival site and a motorway cutting the two off from each other. Because crossing a motorway while drunk and wearing a wilted jester's hat is illegal, a bus service was set up to ferry punters from one site to the other. Unfortunately, the waiting-time was up to two hours, so many people slept in the car park.



The most fun you can have with your clothes on — or off, if it comes to that? Revellers at last year's Reading Festival make believe they are having a good time

Would that this had been possible at V97. As Blur played *For Tomorrow* to the five remaining audience members, the other 49,995 attempted to find their cars. In the pitch dark. With no signposts. And security guards who

met the inquiry "Where is the red car park?" with the same response they would provide have for: "Who did the 1996 remix of Method Man's *Release Yo' Delf*?" Now, while decent lighting would have been horrifically profit-denting, the odd piece of cardboard tacked to a pole with "This way to the car parks" on it would have

cost far less than one punter's ticket. To have informed the Traffic Controllers (fewer crusted in luminous jackets, trying to hide their joints up their sleeves when approached by anyone over the age of 25) where 30,000 cars might have been parked would have been gloriously free.

As it was, desperate revellers met each other in deserted, pitch-dark fields and sobbed: "It's a red Peugeot 405, registration F297 XCY, please help me. My wife is four months pregnant. I fear I will not reach the hospital in time for the birth."

The days have gone when we believed that going to a festival (with the exception of Glastonbury) was anything other than a chance to get fleeced in conditions that frequently resemble a refugee camp. But it's getting harder and harder to pretend you're having a good time. Meanwhile the organisers circle overhead in their corporate helicopters, watching their little cash-cows stumble around in the dark.

Full pelt for the big time

SUPER FURRY ANIMALS

Radiator (Creation CRECD214 £13.99) GRADUATING quickly from support status (they toured Britain last year as guests of fellow Welshmen the Manic Street Preachers) to headliners in their own right, Super Furry Animals won't dream reviews for their debut album, *Fuzzy Logic*. This successor follows with almost indecent haste, but showcases a band with a firm grasp both of pop history and its own potential place in it.

The recent single *Herman Loves Pauline*, included here, has the sort of close harmony vocals perfected by mid-1960s American bands such as the Turtles or the Association, but has a wit and style that is all the group's own. Singer-guitarist Guffy Rhys leads the five-piece (in among the bass and drum credits, member Cian Ciaran is presented as being responsible for "strange and interesting noises", of which there are many) with an assurance remarkable in so young a band, while tracks such as *Demon* and *Bass*

NEW POP ALBUMS

Tuned to D.E.A.D. suggest a radio-friendly future. Quirky and engaging.

Stereophonics *Word Gets Around* (V2 VVR1000432 £13.99)

ALSO from Wales are Stereophonics, although this three-man band has little else in common with the Super Furies. Guitarist-frontman, Kelly Jones has one of those big, rasping rock voices that can overpower any song not strong enough to stand up for itself, but happily he, bassist brother Richard and drummer Stewart Cable also have a facility for writing clever, hook-ridden but nicely skewed songs about the potential awfulness and absurdities of small-town life. *A Thousand Trees*, Billy Dwyer's Daughter and the current single, *Local Boy in the Photograph*, are all mini-triumphs, making it easy to imagine these first signings to Richard Branson's new V2 label being huge by the millennium.

Fleetwood Mac *The Dance* (Reprise 9362-46702-2 £13.99)

NUDGED towards reformation by the 20th anniversary of their multimillion selling *Rumours* album, the 1977 Mac line-up of Lindsey Buckingham, Mick Fleetwood, Christine and John McVie and Stevie Nicks recorded this 17-track LP live earlier this summer on a Los Angeles sound-stage, as a prelude to an American tour. Inevitably, there are tracks from *Rumours*, plus four new songs — two from Buckingham, one from Nicks and another from Christine McVie. It is the two women who appear to have stood up best to the passage of time; on the evidence here, their voices remain gloriously distinctive and uncompromised.

Levellers *Mouth to Mouth* (China WOLCD 1084 £12.99) "THERE has always been a dance element to our music..." The bandwagon-jumper's self-justification has long since caused cynicism to surge in even the most trusting of hearts. Coming from the Levellers, though, such a statement rings true. Certainly, the element in question is more roistering than bleakly techno, but on this, their fifth studio album, they shake their collective booty with more energy than ever.

Singer Mark Chadwick is still just as enjoyably full-on, but the additional light and shade provided by the discreet deployment of technology is welcome within the band's still distinctive sound. Eddi Reader threads guest or backing vocals through several tracks and, in *Dog Train*, they have a fine single to follow up the hit, *Beautiful Day*.

Orbital and Michael Kamen *Event Horizon: Original Soundtrack* (London S289392 £15.99)

A SPOT of extramural activity for Orbital's Paul and Phil Hartnoll, this collaboration with the heavyweight film composer Kamen was inspired by director Paul Anderson's new sci-fi thriller. The film has been described as *The Skinning* set in space, which explains why this four-movement soundtrack moves from the unsettling to the downright scary.

The concept is a clever one: at times, the Hartnolls incorporate music originated by Kamen and full orchestra into their own soundscapes, while elsewhere Kamen's own score dominates, underpinned by Orbital's eerie pulsings and twitters.

ALAN JACKSON



The rise of Super Furry Animals picks up pace with their quirky and engaging second album, *Radiator*

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- (1) *White on Blonde*.....Texas (Mercury)
- (2) *The Fat of the Land*.....Prodigy (XL Recordings)
- (3) *Backstreet's Back*.....Backstreet Boys (Jive)
- (4) *Always on my Mind*.....Elvis Presley (RCA)
- (5) *OK Computer*.....Radiohead (Parlophone)
- (6) *Blurring the Edges*.....Mercedes Brooks (Capitol)
- (7) *Spice*.....Spice Girls (Virgin)
- (8) *Love is For Ever*.....Billy Ocean (Jive)
- (9) *Sheryl Crow*.....Sheryl Crow (A&M)
- (10) *Do It Yourself*.....Seahorses (Geffen)

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Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

Unforgettable, in every way

DIANA KRALL

Love Scenes (Impulse! IMP 12332)

ALTHOUGH her closest British equivalent — for her almost conversational intimacy, and the intelligence with which she interprets the lyric — is Claire Martin, Canadian singer/pianist Diana Krall's clearest debt is to Nat "King" Cole. The instrumentation — her own skilful piano, Russell Malone's neat guitar and Christian McBride's deft but forceful bass — echoes that of Cole's influential 1940s trio, but, more importantly, the ease and assurance with which she tackles the 13 love songs on this collection also bring the great man to mind. Moods swing unaffectedly between the smoky sensuousness of *They Can't Take That Away From Me* to the perky humour of the gold digger's anthem, *Peel Me a Grape*, but the sheer force of Krall's personality ensures that the album remains a highly satisfying artistic whole.

Creative Music Studio

Woodstock Jazz Festival 1-2 (Douglas Music ADC 8-9) DESCRIBED by Ornette Coleman's biographer, John

JAZZ ALBUMS

Litwiler, as "the new jazz's leading institution of higher learning in the 1970s". Karl Berger's Creative Music Studio celebrated its tenth anniversary in 1981 with an extended concert featuring linchpin-drummer Jack DeJohnette, pianist Chick Corea, bassist Miroslav Vitous and assorted frontline soloists, including the considerable likes of saxophonists Lee Konitz and Anthony Braxton and guitarist Pat Metheny.

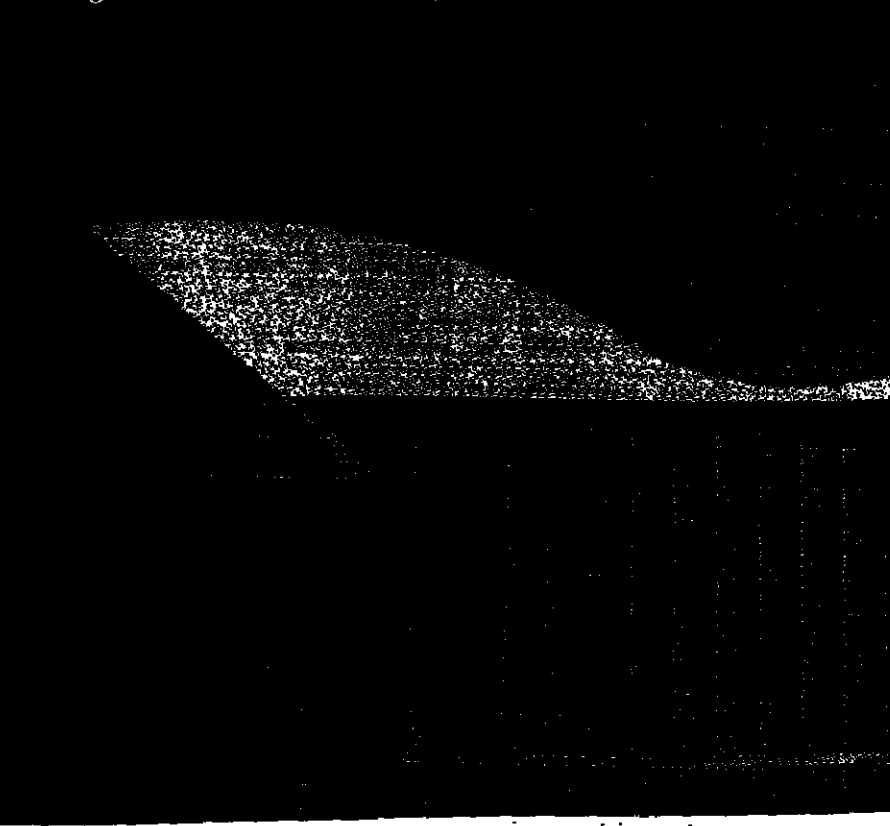
All are heard at various points on these two CDs. Among the highlights are an early performance of Corea's *Waltz*, which sees the pianist usefully stretched by his vigorous rhythm section; a daringly deconstructed Corea-Konitz duo version of *Round Midnight*; and a relaxed but lively ensemble romp through Miles Davis's *All Blues*.

But the whole event is notable for the way freedom and spontaneity are contained (just) within familiar jazz packages.

CHRIS PARKER

Teenage Fanclub I Don't Want Control Of You

The new single out now. CD1 and CD2 £1.99 each 7" vinyl £0.99 during week of release only.



The Album Songs From Northern Britain out now

Swede inspiration

THE Krazyhouse in Liverpool was aptly named on Tuesday night, when the early deserted surrounding streets concealed a well-filled club with perspiration on draught. The top turn was the Wannadies, the Swedish band celebrating three years as wannabes in the British market and coming up to a crucial crossroads in their career.

Tomorrow they will complete their latest run of British dates with a stint at the Reading Festival, followed on September 15 by the latest delivery of a track that has endured a positively elephantine pregnancy. *You and Me Song* is already the Wannadies' signature piece, a three-minute crystallisation of their fine pop sensibilities delivered by a convoy of armoured guitars.

The only problem is that, for all its radio support, the song has still not been a real, lasting hit. Its forthcoming third outing rides on the back of the video release of the hit film *Romeo + Juliet*, on which it formed part of the soundtrack. If this thoroughly likeable, potentially unforgettable ditty does not become a platter that matters this time round, the Wannadies may as well pack up and head back to Skellefteå.

Such a return to their home in the Arctic Circle should not


LIVE GIG

The Wannadies
Liverpool

be necessary. The Liverpool crowd — not the band later told us, among the most vociferous on these dates — welcomed and warbled along with almost everything in the Wannadies' set. The melodies may only be familiar to the faithful, but as one single followed another, from *Someone Somewhere* to *Might Be Stars* to *How It Feels to Hit*, it seemed faintly absurd that we were watching a group still standing outside the winner's circle, peering in at others of far less substance.

There was perhaps a slight lull as they returned to their first British album, *Be a Girl*, for *Dying for More*, which may have been less recognised but was no less powerful. But the bouncing and yelling was back in double measure for *You and Me Song*, introduced with typical waggishness by lead singer Pär Wiksten, whose stardling command of colloquial English makes him sound like Sweden's first Cockney. Blessed with both stage presence and giant tunes, they might yet be stars indeed.

PAUL SEXTON

BE HERE NOW

The Album
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Oasis Internet: <http://www.Oasisnet.com>

EDINBURGH

This week's programme of concerts in the Under Hall begins tonight (8pm) with Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* conducted by the Edinburgh Philharmonic Orchestra in music by Shostakovich and Bartók, with Yuri Bashmet, viola, and Alexander Todorov, piano. Tomorrow (9pm) Anne Sofie von Otter, mezzo-soprano and Ben Hagger, tenor, join Sergey and the Edinburgh PO in a re-orchestration of the concert performed in the Under Hall in 1997 when the Vienna Philharmonic, under conductor Bruno Walter, and soloists Kathleen Ferrier and Peter Pears, performed Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony* and Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*. On Sunday at 8pm, the Philharmonic Orchestra and Edinburgh Festival Chorus under conductor Michael Alcock perform Beethoven's *Missa Solenne*. The Queen's Hall is the venue for recitals by Thomas Zehetmair, violin, and Boris Berezovsky, piano (Friday, 11pm), and Michael Pletzer, piano (Saturday, 11pm). Festival box office (0131-473 2000).

On the Fringe, Forth and Ards, presents *The Fall of the House of Usher*, c. 1850 one-act play celebrating 100 years of cinema (George Square, Venue 37, 2.30pm). Fringe box office (0131-226 5138; tickets 0131-226 5257; information).

LONDON

BBC PROMS The soprano Amanda Roca and mezzo-soprano Catherine Gann and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for the evening's 7.30pm programme of music by Schubert, Beethoven, Mozart and Hindemith. Tomorrow, at 7.30pm, Cécile Stoltz conducts the BBC Philharmonic in Tchaikovsky's *Traviata* (Capriccio solo and the British premiere of Shostakovich's *Old Russian Suite*).

CARNIVAL STREET New musical by James Hall, the psychodrama 1990s, a working-class musical and the upper-class group. Love, money, sex, and the story of a man. Terry John Bates. Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2. (0171-886 3341). Final performance tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm and 9.30pm.

CLUB In Park, Mark's new play directed by Neil LaBute, *Club* and *Club* play strange and low comedy, but clearly in love. National (Colindale), South Park, 7.30pm, mat. Sat. 4pm, Sun. 2.30pm.

FAMILY CIRCLES Early. A play about a family where three women switch partners for each act, though it doesn't help them much. Orange Tree, Richmond, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Thurs. 2.30pm, Sat. 2.30pm, and Sat. 4pm. Sun. 2.30pm.

HEARTBREAK HOUSE Strong cast for David Hall's revised production. National (Colindale), South Park, 7.30pm, mat. Sat. 4pm, Sun. 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES **ALIBI** (18) Burgess. A thriller about a man who is accused of a crime he didn't commit. (0171-835 9772). **ALIBI** (18) Burgess. A thriller about a man who is accused of a crime he didn't commit. (0171-835 9772).

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WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

and BBC (Young Musician of the Year winner, cellist Nadia Olin, in Haydn's *Cello Concerto No. 1*). The programme includes Bartók's *Overman* and Schubert's *Tragic Symphony*. In the final concert of the weekend (Sunday, 7.30pm), Andrew Utton conducts the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in Roy Harris's *Third Symphony*. Barber's *Violin Concerto* (soloist Joshua Bell) and Tchaikovsky's *Fifth Symphony* will follow. **Edinburgh Festival Chorus** (0171-589 8212). **Tonight Sun** 11.

ALISON SHAKESPEARE COMPANY: The ASC presents an all-star double bill of *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night*.

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ELSEWHERE The hangout of a luxury cruise with a childhood sweetheart, seen as a TV game-show prize. Jeremy Reason directs the new Vanessa Brooks comedy, *All at Sea*, when two couples and a young girl's boyfriend sail off into deep waters. **Gateway**, Hamilton Place (01244 34220). Preview begins tonight, 7.45pm. Opening August 26, 7.45pm. Then Tue-Thurs, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm. Until September 12.

LEWES The Lewes Sculpture Trail — an innovative outdoor "exhibition" featuring 16 works by 15 of Britain's leading sculptors — opens today, and coincides with the town's festival of contemporary art, *Artweek*. Lewes Tourist Information (01273 483448). Until October 31.

READING Headline acts of the year's Reading Festival include the Manic Street Preachers, Suede and Mollie King. Box Office (0118 933 0540). Information (0118 933 0540/500044). Today Sun.

LONDON GALLERIES Chris Beetles, Louis Wain and the Summer Cal Show (0171-438 7551). Clark Street, Olga Volokost (0171-730 8959). Jill George, Martin Sweeney and Norman Clark (0171-730 8959). Jason Munn (0171-734 2739). London International Gallery of Children's Art, "Homelessness" Art by Refugee Children of the Former Yugoslavia (0171-431 1200). Museum of London, In Royal Fashion (0171-430 0207). Media, Themes and Variations: Sleep (0171-747 2865). Odeon House, A Different Approach (0171-892 0221). Tom Black, Great Tessel, Essex School of Art and Design (0171-378 1300).

THE MYSTERIOUS MR LOVE New play by Caroline Leach, set in 1912 in a hotel at Weston-super-Mare, directed by Bob Tomson. Paul Nicholas plays a con man and Susan Penhaligon a love-struck woman. **Canary, Canary Street**, SW1 (0171-861 1711). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

PIGMALEON Amusing, understated revival with Roy Marsden, Michael Elphinstone and Norman Clark. **Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2** (0171-389 1700). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4.30pm.

THE SEAGULL After its national tour, Stephen Ure's production arrives in London. Cheryl Campbell plays Arkadina, Joanna Roth is Nina. **Deodarum, Shaftesbury Street, WC2** (0171-389 1700). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thurs and Sat, 4pm. Until September 6.

LONG RUNNERS **Clubs** New London (0171-405 0072). **Clubs** Cambridge (0171-484 5000). **Clubs** London (0171-484 5000). **Clubs** London (0171-484 5000). **Clubs** London (0171-484 5000).

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Thane on Thames

As the name suggests, Brentford's Watermans Arts Centre is built beside water, in fact alongside the Thames upstream from Kew Bridge. But its theatrical productions are generally held comfortably indoors, as in most places where the architect has thought to add a roof to his building.

Not this time, however. To mark the 50th anniversary of Indian independence a company from the state of Manipur, a remote and troubled land between Bangladesh and Burma, is performing (until Sunday) a danced and chanted version of the Scottish play.

Macbeth — Stage of Blood Watermans

and they do so on a raft on the river.

The approach to the theatre is across terraces where ovals of earth and glowing coals have been drawn to assist three quietly swaying Manipuri women to move into a trance. Some of the actors on the raft will also be in a trance, but in Manipuri it seems to be generally the women who become shamans, and thereby enable the villagers to connect themselves to the supernatural world.

In 10,000 years Shakespeare's works will be forgotten except for his tale of star-crossed young lovers in Verona and this drama of civil war beyond the Cheviots. *Macbeth* belongs to all time and every place. Earlier this month a Zulu company brought him to the Globe on Bankside, and now it is the turn of Lokendra Arambam's troupe, who adapt for a moored raft the production they perform at home on the floating islands of a lake near Imphal.

On the raft actors in red sashes are squatting in front of a cave. A boat drifts towards it on the ebb tide, and two warriors, crowned with what look like the eyelash tail-feathers of a peacock, lift out the body of Macbeth. Stamp-



The check of it *Macbeth*, Manipuri-style, staged on a raft on the Thames at Brentford

ing feet, the sounds of gong and flute, and the flashing of a curved sword restore the body to life. Ducks and moorhens hasten for cover, and the deeds of the rebellious warrior are re-enacted. With Manipuri currently riven by tribal conflict the story holds a poignant relevance.

Read the programme first. The scenes do not simply occur in flashback but out of all familiar order, and mostly

back to front. Lady Macbeth is dead before she lives, likewise Lady Macduff, both of whom are played by the Macbeth actor in a woman's robe, speaking with a new voice and in a very different, troubled manner. Battles rage. Boats pass silently. At times the exotic experience becomes so puzzling that it is like trying to interpret dancing cuneiform.

As daylight leaks from the sky, and the mudflats around

the islands emerge above the sinking tide, warriors walk over what has been water. This is magic. Men encased in straw mats dance on from Dunsinane, like animated sheaves of corn. At the end the bodies are borne away and torches burn around an empty raft. A weird evening, not exactly wonderful but containing wonders.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Nostalgic for the swastika

Eve of Retirement

AS FAMILY snaps go, it is an unconventional collection. There are nice pictures of pre-war German towns, along with "Maria's aunt, the church, and you with flowers". But on other pages are doomsday pictures, Kurt Waldheim "looking sweet" in his Hitler Youth togs, a blurred Führer strutting about, and studies of Auschwitz. "They can't take my memories away," says Jane Wood's Vera to her brother with a mawkish shake of the head. And Julian Curry's Rudolf, who is nostalgically dressed in SS uniform in honour of Hitler's birthday, is in no mood to disagree.

The Austrian dramatist, Thomas Bernhard, wrote this "comedy of the German soul" in 1979. Time has blunted its direr warnings, but it is still an impressively angry play, suggesting as it does that denazification was a cowardly pretence. Thanks to Hitler's help, Rudolf escaped arrest for the crimes he committed as "the youngest judge on the entire Eastern front" and as the "substitute" commandant of a death-camp. Not only that: after ten years in hiding, he emerged to become a senior judge and to remain a wholehearted Hitlerite.

Do virtually all German citizens yearn

to wipe out the Jews once and for all, as Rudolf says? Are they crypto-Nazis, "unable to show the world who we really are"? The extravagance of that claim in 1997 means that we have to look elsewhere for the play's bite.

I think we find it in the terrifying self-pity of Rudolf and Vera. He, in particular, sees himself as a kindly person who performed his patriotic duty without complaint, was hounded by American trouble-makers, and still cannot openly enjoy a "harmless" shindig in which he and his chums dress up his sister Clara as

a Jew and then jokingly persecute her.

Clara, who was crippled by an American bomb that maddens her siblings with her leftist views, is one of the play's weaknesses. Mary Chater grimly darts Rudolf's socks, but gets little chance to explore the character's contradictions. The other weakness is that Vera is as overwritten as Clara is underwritten. Wood burlesques her way through the role with a wonderfully annoying smirk, but her adoration of her brother is not just incestuous but repetitive and over-the-top.

Curry's Rudolf, a withered, sharp-tongued blend of tortoise and parrot, sometimes seems exaggerated too. But beneath the aggressive right-mindedness of the German patriot and environmental crusader, beneath the anger and resentment, one senses unease and defensiveness. "I feel no shame," he bawls, saluting Hitler's photo; but at some level he realises why children jostle him on the street, his doctor asks him cut questions, and his younger sister despises him. This weird reptilian bird of prey is an obsolete hangover from the Nazi jungle — and he knows it.

BENEDICT NIGHT

EDUCATION

Summer nights, Will and whisky

Susan Elkin visits Stratford, where Shakespeare School has been in session this week

Stratford-upon-Avon, with its multilingual crowds, swans, ice-creams and flowers, has sweltered stickily this week, like the rest of Britain. In Stratford's busy midst, 30 secondary English and drama teachers from all over the UK have been on a working holiday with a difference. The fifth annual Prince of Wales Shakespeare School, designed to promote better teaching of and about Shakespeare, began last Saturday. Its initial phase ends this afternoon.

The 1997 theme is *How Theatre Makes Meaning*, based around five current Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) productions, all of which the participants have seen this week. On Tuesday, for example, most of the work was based on *Hamlet*. Then the group saw *Matthew Warhus's* controversial production in the evening.

They studied and discussed six previous RSC versions of *Hamlet* from reviews and photographs. How can you persuade pupils that there is no definitive way of interpreting Shakespeare? Every director, designer and team of actors creates a unique meaning. Later in the day the teachers had sessions with David Hunt, assistant director of the RSC's current *Hamlet*, and Paul Freeman, the actor playing Claudius.

"This will definitely influence and enhance my teaching," said Bob Winder, deputy head and English teacher at Greenhill School, Tenby. "And I shall be able to disseminate some of what I've learnt here more widely next term."

The week also included sessions led by RSC education staff, by Peter Thomson, Professor of Drama at Exeter University, and a talk this morning by Adrian Noble, the artistic director of the RSC. Sarah Hawkins, of Peter Symonds Sixth Form College in

Winchester, said: "It's all very exciting and inspiring. I'm sure this is the right way to teach Shakespeare."

Part of the payoff for Ms Hawkins's having attended the course is that she will transfer some of her learning to her direction of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* next term. In common with most of the course members, Ms Hawkins had her £275 fee paid by her college.

The launch course in 1993 was funded by the Prince of Wales, who takes an ongoing interest in the work. "Shakespeare and his teaching really is a passion with him," said Wendy Greenhill, head of RSC Education and director of the Prince of Wales Shakespeare School.

Since 1994 Allied Domecq, the major sponsor of the RSC, has funded the school, the total cost of which for this year is £75,000. For once, teachers are being "afforded the sort of professional treatment that their friends in commerce have long taken for granted: they are accommodated in a four-star hotel, they have sat in good theatre seats and they have been given play texts. Allied Domecq even included a complimentary bottle of whisky."

This year, for the first time, the school will continue during a long weekend in the autumn at either Newcastle upon Tyne or Plymouth, where the RSC has residencies, and this is included in the cost. "I think the follow-up is an excellent idea," Mr Winder said. "It will give us time to go back into school, to try out some of the ideas, to reflect and to pass some of it on before we come together again." Ms Greenhill and her four education staff

"This will definitely have an influence on my teaching"



Andrew Wade, RSC's Head of Voice, holds sessions examining the power of words

want the follow-up sessions to be fairly "reactive" — focusing on the specific teaching and sharing the method concerns which course members raise — although there will be additional theatre-based work, too.

Much of the learning is very practical and potentially disconcerting for English specialists who may not be quite so accustomed to working on their feet as their drama colleagues. Andrew Wade, Head of Voice at the RSC, led an impressive two-hour workshop, looking at the power of the words, mostly through a speech by Brutus from

Coriolanus. It quickly became clear in Mr Wade's session that one can unravel meaning by working on the shape, sound, quality and arrangement of the words by speaking them in different ways — a far cry from a teacher standing in front of a bored group of students and telling them the meaning of every word. "You have to learn to see with your ears," Mr Wade

said, pointing out that in Shakespeare's day audiences (the word derives from the Latin verb "to hear") went to hear a play. Today we talk of seeing a play.

"Theatre teaching is definitely not an anti-intellectual alternative to academic work," Ms Greenhill said firmly. "Done properly it is very rigorous and demanding. It adds another major dimension to the learning. It raises real issues in the text which you simply don't notice if you sit silently and passively."

The Prince of Wales Shakespeare School is, inevitably, oversubscribed. "We get hundreds of applications for our 30 places," Ms Greenhill says. So how does she select? "I have three main criteria," she says. "First I look for people who are in a strong position to disseminate what they've learnt. Second, I favour people at some sort of career turning point. Perhaps someone has always taught English but now has to do drama or theatre studies as well. Third, I try to build in a geographical spread."

This year the RSC took the unprecedented step of inviting Ofsted to evaluate the course. Three HMIs have, between them, attended most of this week's sessions and will sim-

Maths benefits from addition of humanity

Critics of modular mathematics syllabuses say that they produce higher grades than terminal examinations, rupture the subject's integrity, inhibit the free flow of teaching and fail to stretch the best candidates as far.

These charges are probably valid. But do they matter? Was the older A-level mathematics set at an appropriate level of difficulty for most candidates? To how many candidates is the integrity of the subject apparent or important at A level, which is closer to the four hills of mathematics than the summit? Should an examination be geared to the intellectual aspirations of the most able at the expense of the numbers who give up mathematics after GCSE of far greater concern in a technological society that earns its way in the world by its wits?

The challenge is to encourage more students to carry on with mathematics, to offer them reasonable prospects of success if they work hard, and to leave them with a sense of achievement. Mathematics exams can fall foul of a kind of catastrophe to which few other subjects are prone: make them a little too hard and they intimidate candidates. In a terminal examination this is a disaster: on a modular system it is usually no more than a temporary setback.

A-level mathematics is profitably studied by all kinds of student. Yet some, one studying English, history and mathematics as a prelude to a humanities degree will have different interests and needs from someone aiming for the mathematical or natural sciences — flexibility is needed.

As for difficulty, comparisons with the past are dangerous. Examinations set on a different syllabus in a different style and with a different paper structure will always tend to appear more demanding than those for which this year's candidates have been prepared. Whether

Modules reward both diligence and brilliance, argues John Puddefoot

er they are genuinely harder relative to the preparation that students receive in a given year is another matter. Terminal examinations allow longer questions to be set and, being usually of three hours' duration, they allow time to return to more difficult questions. Modular syllabuses allow virtually no choice and demand a more

With hard work, students can attain the grades that they deserve

thorough knowledge of the subject by setting more papers and asking many more short questions in less than half the time. They impose their own pressures and disciplines.

Modules also serve other purposes. Accurate numeracy could be examined in a dedicated module, and the results reported separately. The hard work, determination and diligence shown when students retake modules and improve their results could be reflected by recording the results of all modules on A-level certificates, rather than by restricting the number of retakes, as Sir Ron Dearing proposes. A more imaginative "pick 'n' mix" approach, with restricted opportunities to take extra modules in History of Mathematics or Mathematics in Art, would give the subject wider appeal and encourage more to master its technical

aspects. In a subject that becomes progressively more difficult, the option to drop out halfway with an AS level should ensure that no candidate is left empty-handed, while the possibility of adding extra modules means that no candidate need be under-employed. And knowing exactly what you have achieved so far as you approach your last papers reduces stress.

The most significant feature of modular Mathematics is that it has been seen as more accessible and so encouraged students to believe that, with hard work, they will obtain the grades they deserve. Of course, if a candidate who would probably have obtained a D in a terminal examination, and perhaps does poorly in his early modules, goes on to obtain a B by dint of hard work, critics will say that the examination regime was too easy, while advocates will say that it gave him a chance to show his true potential.

In any case, a general examination is not the place to try to stretch pupils. A student who is unwilling to be stretched beyond a syllabus by the time he takes his A levels has not been bitten by the bug essential for excellence. An "interesting" A-level question will almost always leave most candidates for dead. It is important to examine what candidates know rather than what they do not.

Of course, there are gains and losses. Of course, things can be improved. Of course, we are not examining what we used to examine in the way we used to examine it. But we are breaking down the fear that accompanies higher school Mathematics with modular A levels that are more humane and accessible than their linear counterparts, and rewarding persistence and application at least as much as the ability to be brilliant (or not) for three hours on one or two hot days in June.

● The author is head of mathematics at Eton College

English and Scottish systems could boost each other, says Judith McClure

Let's share exam answers

As a head teacher for six years in England, I shared the view held by many that A levels needed reform: it was clearly necessary both to give greater breadth for all students, including the most academic, and to provide appropriate courses for the greater range of students who wished to pursue their education into the sixth form.

For four years as a head in Scotland, I have watched closely the proposals for the development of courses and qualifications on both sides of the border. The two systems have much to contribute to each other, yet the debate has been tantalisingly regional.

Even after Sir Ron Dearing's 16-19 report, there is an increasing tendency to look to continental models of breadth as a guide for English reform, without considering the advantages of the Higher examinations used in Scotland. In Scotland, the new *Higher Still* programme, commendably consultative and certainly offering wider opportunities for all students, has not tried to look to the undoubted strengths of A levels in its efforts to improve the second sixth-form year (S6).

This lack of understanding of one educational system by the other is extraordinary when one considers the use made by students of the qualifications offered. Many Scottish students attend English universities, where admissions tutors have made the effort to come to terms with Scottish examinations, and the size of the English intake at the universities of Edinburgh and St Andrews, for instance, is considerable.

The Ucas system is UK-wide, yet its current use demonstrates the gaps in mutual understanding of qualifications. This is nowhere clearer than in the points system: A and AS level grades can be summarised in numerical form, and the performance of candidates and indeed schools can be assessed in this way. But there is no agreed point system for the Scottish examinations of Highers and Sixth Year Studies.

This is not to say that the use of points is an effective way of measuring academic and personal qualities for university entrance, and Ucas is moving to a wider way of presenting achievement; however,



Philip Croker, seven A-level A grades

the absence of points indicates the lack of any effort to determine the similarities and differences of the demands of English and Scottish examinations.

It is important that something should be done about this. The Scottish system gives to students in the first year of the sixth form (S5) precisely what their English colleagues lack: breadth.

The ability to do five subjects means that options can be left open, that the science/arts divide can be broken, and that students aiming for university can acquire a much broader range of skills and knowledge. At the end of the year more specialised choices can be made on the basis of the first year's experience and achievement.

The problem for the Scottish system, so clearly analysed in the Howie Report, has been the status of what is on offer in S6. The Certificate of Sixth Year Studies, while it has many strengths as a preparation for university, simply never acquired the cachet of A level: no one has ever referred to it as a gold standard. As a result, Scottish students who remained at school for a second sixth-form year have, in general, not achieved as well as their English counterparts in the second year,

though many schools have provided stimulating and effective programmes which have included a wide range of extra-curricular possibilities.

The *Higher Still* programme is seeking to remedy this by a new qualification, that of Advanced Higher. While conceptually a very good solution, the success of this examination in providing more depth to the S6 year depends on university recognition, and this is at the heart of the present debate.

The English and Scottish systems have much to gain from each other. The five-Higher first year in the Sixth Form is an excellent start, and the English system would benefit from it; the depth and challenge of Advanced levels would add much to the second year in Scotland.

At a very basic level, we need to have a clear view of the relationship of the different examinations which are being used as the basis for admission to both English and Scottish universities. It is hard to see how universities can aim to provide curricular progression from school to university without there being an understanding of the development of students following different courses.

As a practical example, the results achieved by the 75 members of St George's Upper Sixth included Higher, Advanced level and Certificate of Sixth Year Studies examinations. Some chose Advanced levels as their main thrust; they were able to broaden them by additional Higher courses. Others chose five Highers in the first year. In the second they were able to add depth to their studies by taking Advanced Levels if they wished (or CSYS in English and History); if necessary they could supplement their Higher success rate.

Roughly equal numbers of our students enter English and Scottish universities; the examinations taken did not determine the choice. The fact that our very good results are impenetrable to those compiling a league table of schools based on Ucas points brings us back to my general argument: no satisfactory basis for comparison of English and Scottish examinations exists, yet clearly each system has virtues that the other could well emulate. ● Judith McClure is head of St George's School, Edinburgh

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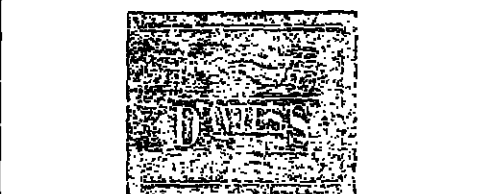
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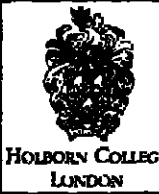
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EDUCATION

David Charter finds most students are completely lacking in financial expertise. Harvey Atkinson gives advice on where to find it

Not only well read, but well into the red

Most sixth-formers are alarmingly naive about the financial responsibilities they will face as undergraduates, with six out of ten believing they will get through their university years without having to borrow any money at all.

They are clearly in for a shock. The latest figures on student hardship show that seven out of every ten students graduate from university or college with a heavy burden of debt, sometimes running into five figures.

To make matters worse, the A-level pupils who took part in the study were questioned just days after the Government's announcement that tuition fees of £1,000 a year are to be charged from 1998, and that the maintenance grant is to be phased out.

The survey, by NatWest Bank, concludes that students are poor at predicting and managing their financial situations as undergraduates. The bank believes there is a clear correlation between financial naivety at school or sixth-form college and permanent debt at university.

Nearly a quarter of those who were asked to plan out the costs of university life gave no figures for rent or bills, even though all students living away from home will have to pay them.

Half made an allowance for Council Tax, even though students are exempt from paying it. One in seven sixth-formers believes that more than 20 per cent of total resources will go on course

books, compared with the 4 per cent reported by undergraduates.

Asked to break down their likely university incomes, students said borrowed funds would account for only 6 per cent of their expected resources, compared with actual undergraduate figures which are closer to 30 per cent.

NatWest followed up the survey with a list of tips to help students to cope financially in their first year. Advice includes:

- Live in university-owned accommodation for the first year if given the choice, because you will know at the outset your total living costs each term.

- Confront financial worries early and discuss them with your bank. Many banks have specialist student advisers at on-campus branches.

- Only have one current account. One is easier to monitor, and research indicates that students with more than one are likely to have larger debts.

- Do not wait until you are desperate to apply for a Government Student Loan, as applications can take a long time to process. If the loan comes through earlier than expected, put it in a high interest-earning account until you need the money.

The survey also found a radical shift in sixth-formers' attitudes towards money.

In 1994, pupils were very intolerant of debt, a trend that

steadily reversed at each year of university. Half of today's school-leavers consider debt an integral part of student lifestyle, compared with 30 per cent in 1996. Now, only 30 per cent believe there is no excuse for borrowing money, down from 37 per cent in 1996.

The issue of money looms larger in students' reasons for going to university. A total of 86 per cent of those questioned said that the main reason for entering higher education was to improve career prospects, up from 78 per cent in 1994.

NatWest has launched a new on-campus programme comprising activities and publications to help students to understand money management better, and will continue to monitor student attitudes to finance, in partnership with schools and universities.

FINDING the right bank account for your needs can be a bewildering task, with so many banks offering a range of incentives and services to students.

But as our table shows, it is worth shopping around for an account and looking out for advantages beyond the initial free CD or introductory cash gift.

One of the key things is to ensure that there is a branch at your college. If possible, seek out a branch that has a student adviser, who will be trained in student finance and be able to offer expert advice

STUDENT PACKAGES OFFERED BY THE MAIN BANKS			
1 Incentives	2 Authorised overdrafts	3 Unauthorised overdrafts	4 Cards
CO-OPERATIVE <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical stance Interest-free: 1st yr £600, 2nd yr £800, 3rd yr & after £1,000. Over these amounts interest at 1.5% per month and an £8 per month charge Interest charged 2.4%, £10 per month and £3.50 per day fee, £30 for return of unpaid items Visa Delta card-£100 cheque guarantee. Can apply for Visa card. On opening of Visa Accounts £5 donated to charity such as Greenpeace or Amnesty International, then every £100 spent on the card 25p goes to charity 	HALIFAX <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10% discounts on holidays and commission-free travellers cheques Interest-free overdraft arranged up to £1,000. Interest rates for authorised overdraft 0.51% per month Interest charged at 18% Effective Annual Rate. £2.50 for return of unpaid items. No charge for subsequent returned items on the same day Cheque guarantee £100, cash and Switch. Fee-free Halifax Visa card 	NATWEST <ol style="list-style-type: none"> £50 cash from a student banking service branch, £35 from a non-student banking service branch Interest-free overdraft up to £1,000 for years 1 to 3, £1,500 for year 4, £2,000 for year 5. Authorised borrowing 0.75% per month Interest charged at 0.75% per month. £27.50 for return of unpaid items Multifunction Switch, cash and £100 cheque guarantee card, Mastercard and Visa account available, no annual fee for 3 years for 1st year students 	ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Range of benefits including discounted telephone calls, 10% discount on top selling CDs, videos and tapes Interest-free overdraft £600 year 1, £800 year 2, £1,200 year 3. Interest rates for authorised overdrafts related to bank base rate and at managers discretion Interest charged at a maximum of 29.8% EAR subject to manager's discretion. Returned items £30 £50 cheque guarantee, cash and Switch card
MIDLAND <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Free 4 year Railcard or £50 (£30 when full package not taken) Interest-free overdraft £750 year 1, £1,000 year 2, £1,250 year 3, £1,500 year 4. Additional borrowing 1% over base rate Interest charged at 1.85% per month. £25 for return of unpaid items Cheque guarantee card (£100), cash and debit card. Fee-free Midland Visa/Mastercard 	BARCLAYS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> £50 cash (£25 to bank account and £25 to credit card) and £10 of cinema vouchers once account is up and running Interest-free overdraft £1,100 year 1, £1,400 year 2, £1,600 year 3, £1,700 year 4. Additional authorised borrowing 1% above bank base rate Interest charged at 12% above bank's base rate, £5 for return of unpaid items Cheque guarantee, cash and debit card, fee-free student Barclaycard £350 limit 	TSB <ol style="list-style-type: none"> £50 of Our Price vouchers Interest-free overdraft £500 year 1, £600 year 2, £700 year 3. Authorised overdraft above interest free tier 0.51% per month Interest charged at 2.2% per month and a daily excess fee of £3. Returned items £17.50 £100 cheque guarantee, cash and debit card 	LLOYDS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> £30 cash or £20 cash and a free National Express Card (worth £19) Free overdraft limit. £500 year 1, £750 year 2, £1,000 year 3, £1,250 year 4, £1,500 year 5. Authorised borrowing over these limits 0.6% per month Interest charged at 2% per month. £25 for returned items £100 cheque, cash card and fee-free Mastercard available

Compiled by Harvey Atkinson

Make a plan - or you might lose the plot

Banks can help in choosing the right account and drawing up a budget

and information when you need it.

If you already have a bank account, it may be worth changing it to that bank's student package. You should also think about opening an account at the same bank as your parents, as this will make any cash transfers quicker. Some banks encourage this by offering a free five if your parents already have an account.

When the account is open, set up a budget plan; student

advisers can assist with this. A budget will be useful if you need to apply for an overdraft, because if you can clearly and accurately show income and expenditure, the bank will be better able to assess your financial needs.

When going to discuss an overdraft or other financial service at the bank, remember that smart dress is likely to ensure better treatment.

You should always read statements and keep a close eye on spending levels. If you

think you will end up in the red or exceed agreed overdraft levels, contact your student adviser at the bank as soon as possible. This should prevent any unexpected charges and show the bank that the account holder is being responsible for his or her finances.

Many of the banks offer annual fee-free credit cards. These should be used only if you can meet the monthly payments as the interest rates can be costly. Wherever pos-

sible, commercial loans should be avoided, as interest rates will inevitably be higher than bank overdraft rates and repayment terms will not be flexible.

Part-time work should be considered as an option to help to make ends meet. However, you need to think carefully about the number of hours you will work, and ensure part-time work does not affect your studies. Most student unions run job shops, which limit the amount of

hours per week and ensure a fair wage.

Students who still find it hard to make ends meet could apply to their university or college access fund. This is a hardship grant administered by individual colleges. Contact your student union or welfare services for details of how to apply.

For advice, support and information on any aspect of money management, students can always turn to student union welfare or college welfare services. These can, if necessary, negotiate with banks on a student's behalf.

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EDUCATION

Attitude is the biggest handicap

Hugh Thompson
finds that many
universities are
reluctant to cater
for the disabled

It is estimated that about 4 per cent of undergraduates have physical or mental disabilities. But, in terms of the general population, those with handicaps are massively under-represented on degree courses. If you have a disability, you are only a third as likely to do a degree.

Although universities may not be appropriate for those with severe learning difficulties, many others are put off by the lack of facilities and the attitudes of both school and university.

Sophie Corlett, assistant director of the National Bureau for Students with Disabilities, says universities were exempted under the Disability Discrimination Act. But while some have made exceptional efforts and two-thirds are doing what they can, a number still have to wake up to the fact that the disabled are part of the mainstream, like any minority, they must be catered for.

"We still get reports of lecturers who will not clip on microphones so students who are hard of hearing can hear what they say, or others who will not face the class so that those who rely on lip-reading can take notes," she says. "It is as much a question of attitude as resources."

One university refused to give a severely disabled student a priority parking place near the lecture hall entrance until his local authority disability sticker had arrived. While some universities have taken considerable time and effort, others are embarrassing in their lack of provision.

One of the main disabilities suffered by students is dyslexia. Universities can provide a range of aids, such as tape recorders for taking notes, carbon pads so a fellow student can give a copy, and computer software with special word packages that help to organise and retain information. Other students need almost 24-hour care and attention, but with the help of



Lancaster has won awards for its facilities for the disabled: 500 of its 10,000 students registered a disability when they applied

DSS and local authority grants, extra funds can be found.

One university that has won awards for its facilities for the disabled is Lancaster. Its modern, centralised campus gives it certain advantages, but its management has also taken a positive view. Some 500 of Lancaster's 10,000 students registered a disability when they applied.

Rosemary Turner, the special needs adviser, says: "Nobody is ever going to be able to help all the disabled all the time, but you can keep improving what you offer. We have taken the line that to be a centre of excellence and attract the best students, we must not exclude anyone who is good enough. We do recommend that disabled students see us first; we had to turn one

away because our lifts were not big enough for the wheelchair. False promises are probably worse than rejection."

Not all universities make such efforts. One claimed its campus was "too hilly" for it to make any provision for the disabled. Creating facilities for the disabled is seen as part and parcel of a modern inclusive learning institution that tries to create flexible and accommodating programmes for all.

A government report showed that, compared to able-bodied students, a greater proportion of the disabled were men, and had entered university when older than 25, which means that they are more likely to have partners and children. Disabled students also suffer from the constraints of "access and

travel" and "lack of confidence". Fewer are likely to go to university as a natural progression from school, and more state "self-esteem" and an "alternative to unemployment" as the reason for going to university.

Nicholas Gibbon is a second-year student doing biomedical sciences at the University of Bradford. Because of brain damage at birth, he has co-ordination problems and symptoms of dyslexia. A disabled student allowance (DSA) bought him a computer and printer, greatly alleviating his handwriting and communication problems. The grant means that he can have many of his own reference books, rather than continually hav-

ing to go to the library. "The disability department staff have been invaluable in administering my DSA and liaising with my tutors to make sure I get the appropriate support and extra time that I need," he says. "For any disabled person thinking of going to university my advice is, don't be discouraged and think you can't cope — once you get there, you'll have a great time and make a lot of friends."

Further information: Higher Education and Disability, the guide to higher education for people with disabilities 1997, includes sections on choosing the right course, funding, support facilities and an institution guide. From Skill, National Bureau for Students with Disabilities, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA. £5 for professionals. £1.50 for students

Spoilt for choice
even at this hour

Still openings in engineering and
technology, says John O'Leary

THE SCRAMBLE for the last free higher education places ensured that vacancies on the most popular arts and social science courses disappeared almost as soon as they were advertised. Although modular programmes ensure that the lists are still lengthy, single honours degrees in subjects such as English or law are at a premium in the old universities.

Not so engineering and technology. Even this summer's fee-induced panic has left qualified candidates with plenty of choice. The lists in today's *Times* are as long as they were when clearing began ten days ago.

Even a number of the universities which feature at the head of the *Times Good University Guide* rankings for engineering have places available. Of the top 20 for mechanical engineering, Cardiff, Sheffield, Bath, Bristol, UMIST, Coventry, Loughborough, University College, London, and Imperial College, London, were full yesterday.

In the more popular area of

computing, which also appears in today's lists, several of the top 20 universities still have vacancies. Kent, Southampton, Dundee, Heriot-Watt, Lancaster and Aberystwyth were still taking inquiries yesterday.

Admissions officers report increased pressure on places in all subject areas this year, but many universities expect to have places available, as usual, right up to the start of term. Even with the access courses and foundation programmes put on by universities to maximise the number of potential entrants, there are not enough qualified candidates to go round.

Entrance requirements for most engineering courses remain low: two A levels of any grade will secure a place in many colleges and new universities.

But drop-out rates are correspondingly high. Students should think carefully about whether they can cope with the subject before enrolling with minimal qualifications.

TODAY'S TOP UNIVERSITIES

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

- 1 Imperial
- 2 Cambridge
- 3 Sheffield
- 4 UMIST
- 5 Bath
- 6 Loughborough
- 7 UCL
- 8 Queen's Belfast
- 9 Birmingham
- 10 Newcastle
- 11 Bradford
- 12 Nottingham
- 13 Surrey
- 14 Leeds
- 15 Aston
- 16 South Bank
- 17 Teesside

Subject not assessed in Scotland

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

- 1 Cardiff, Sheffield
- 2 Bath
- 3 Nottingham

- 5 Bristol
- 6 Cranfield
- 7 Leeds, Manchester, Strathclyde
- 10 Reading
- 11 UMIST
- 12 Queen's (Belfast), Imperial
- 14 UCL, Southampton
- 16 Coventry, Glasgow, Manchester Metropolitan
- 19 Greenwich, Hull, Loughborough

COMPUTING

- 1 Cambridge, Warwick, York
- 4 Edinburgh
- 5 Glasgow, London, Imperial, Oxford
- 8 Exeter, Swansea
- 10 Manchester, Southampton
- 12 Kent
- 13 Bath, Bristol, Dundee, Heriot-Watt, Lancaster, St Andrews
- 19 Aberystwyth, Cardiff

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Time is short as RFU sets out in search of Rowell's replacement as England coach

Slemen and Best head wanted list

By DAVID HANDS AND MARK SOUSTER

ENGLAND'S pursuit of a new rugby union coach was under way yesterday, but the Rugby Football Union (RFU) will probably have to postpone its plans to make the post full-time. Apart from anything else, the new incumbent must come to terms with the fact that his first job will be to prepare a team to beat South Africa, New Zealand and Australia within the space of a month and, with the three southern-hemisphere powers looming, it would take a brave man to look further down the road.

The two favoured candidates, after the resignation of Jack Rowell on Wednesday and the withdrawal from contention on Monday of Ian McGeechan, will be Mike Slemen and Dick Best. McGeechan, coach to the British Isles in South Africa this summer, described his decision to withdraw as "one of the most difficult decisions I have ever had to take. It was very difficult, very confusing and I might well regret it."

Slemen is the senior of Rowell's two assistants, ahead of Les Cusworth, while Best has previous experience of the job and is immediately available. In ideal circumstances, the RFU would prefer Best to have cleared up any loose ends left by his abrupt dismissal from Harlequins in May, but these circumstances are far from ideal. The union was prepared to accept Rowell on a part-time basis until a telephone call told them that he was not available.

Yesterday, Rowell insisted that there was nothing sinister in the timing of his decision. "It was pure coincidence," he said. "I was at a board meeting in London and one of the issues on the agenda was the chairman's statement of his intentions there and then what I was going to do, so I called Bill Beaumont [the chairman of the playing committee] and told him I was not to be considered."

Rowell, who took over from Geoff Cooke in 1994, has consistently maintained that his business interests would come ahead of rugby in the event of a conflict. He said that his mind was made up as early as last March that he could not "ride two horses", and that the England job was not a realistic option unless he was prepared to lose an estimated £1.5

million in share options from the computer company that he chairs. "The die was finally cast after the Australia game," Rowell said of the week in which it was disclosed that the RFU had been speaking to Graham Henry, coach to Auckland Blues, in New Zealand. That was just over a month ago, and Rowell's rage was transparent when Fran Cotton, in his new position of RFU management board vice-chairman (playing), championed so publicly the cause of McGeechan. Rowell had reasons to believe that he lacked the confidence of his rugby employers.

"I did talk around the possibility as I enjoy pressure and I like living with a lot on my mind, but it was not practicable," Rowell said. "Not doing the England job will leave a huge void in my life."

"I have had huge pleasure from rugby and I have enjoyed building teams at Gosforth, Bath and England. I have always said that doing something with England was a great privilege. Building the present squad has been the highlight. The grand slam and the championships were a big thing, but watching England develop a new style, that was very uplifting."

"No one gets everything right. I hope, though, we got most of it. Criticism goes with the job. Look at Glenn Hoddle — one defeat against Italy and the sky falls in. But, when you are at the top, you have to be mentally tough enough to take it. I have always tried not to criticise players or other people, and I won't start now. I have tried to do the job with the utmost dignity."

Neither Slemen nor Cusworth has been contacted by the RFU, but Slemen is ambitious to climax an eight-year association with the union by coaching the national team in his own right. He will not, however, concede his teaching post at Merchant Taylors' Cross, "England is a short-term job," he said. "I don't see the coach going beyond a four-year cycle, or, in this case, 2½ years [up to the 1999 World Cup]."

"I would then be 48 and still enjoying what I do now as a teacher. I would like to be England coach, but the only way I would accept it is if the school gave me the time off. I have been there for 20 years and they have been very good to me."



SIX CANDIDATES FOR THE ENGLAND JOB

MIKE SLEMEN

The former England and British Isles wing has been involved in the England coaching hierarchy for nearly eight years. Having assisted Jack Rowell with the senior squad for the past two, he knows the present playing squad and would provide valuable continuity. Slemen, 46, will not do the job full-time.

LES CUSWORTH

Coached England to the 1993 World Cup Sevens title and has been assistant to Rowell since 1994. The former England stand-off half, 43, has just taken on a five-year contract with Worcester and feels deeply the criticism directed at Rowell but, like Slemen, has helped to develop the present players.

DICK BEST

Coached England from 1992-94 and has the great merit of being available. Long-term association with Harlequins as player, coach and director of rugby terminated abruptly in May and he seeks a return to a hands-on role within the game. His appointment would mean the RFU eating a large slice of humble pie.

CLIVE WOODWARD

Coached the England under-21 team last year and ambitious in his rugby philosophy, which was developed in Australia in the mid-1980s. Perhaps too ambitious for a conservative English hierarchy, just as he was as a player. Not contracted to Bath, where he assists Andy Robinson, and therefore available.

IAN MCGEECHAN

One of the world's best coaches — two successes with the Lions, a grand slam with Scotland. Talked into allowing his name to go forward by Fran Cotton but withdrew from consideration on Monday in deference to his long-term contract with Northampton. Unlikely that the RFU will go back to him.

RICHARD HILL

An England coach of the future, almost certainly, but not at this time. Hill has signed a long-term contract with Gloucester that would allow him to help England on a part-time basis, but will not go full-time. At 38, the former scrum half is the youngest of the candidates and still developing his coaching and management skills.

England coaching ladder needs to have firmer steps

Fran Cotton should look at rugby union's teaching structure, David Hands suggests

IF THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) believes that it has a viable coaching structure in place, then the resignation of Jack Rowell from the position of England coach should not pose a problem. His immediate associates, Mike Slemen and Les Cusworth, should be adjusted to fill the vacancy and life for England would go on.

The problem for the RFU is two-fold: that it seeks to change the nature of the coaching role by making it full-time and by the hand-grenade lobbed into the structure by Fran Cotton.

Cotton has clearly championed the cause of Ian McGeechan, who coached the British Isles to success in South Africa this summer. Why should he not? McGeechan has all the qualities required for the England job; he is one of the best in the world, his record shows as much, his only weakness being that he is not part of the RFU coaching system.

He has spent most of his playing and coaching life in England but his national association is with Scotland. That should not matter, he is a professional and players are becoming used to differing nationalities, at club and country level. England have given Alan Davies (a Welshman admittedly but brought up in England) to Wales and Brian Ashton to Ireland; Australia have given Alex Evans to Wales. New Zealand Murray Kidd to Ireland, and club rugby in Britain and Ireland is littered with Antipodean coaches.

For McGeechan the temptation was to carry on where he had left off with the Lions, so many of whose players were English. But the insertion of his name by Cotton backed the system: England have a senior team, they have an A team, they have an under-21 team, they have a highly successful 18-group schools team which, under the guidance of Geoff Wappett, is cutting a swathe through Australia.

If that ladder is to mean anything, then England must draw from it now in their hour of need. The fact that there appears on the surface at least, to be hesitation suggests that the ladder has some rickety steps that is the result in part of the endless chopping and changing among potential England coaches over the last decade. Ten years ago you might have bet money on Davies becoming England coach after an outstanding display by his A team against France at Bath.

By the end of 1988 he and David Robinson had been offloaded, disillusioned men and Davies was reclaimed by Wales. He is now back in England, with Bristol, but his time has probably gone. Roger Uttley was introduced successfully, and may well return in a new guise as manager this season. He concluded his tenure of office with England's appearance in the 1991 World Cup final.

In contrast, Slemen's role within the system looked shaky at one time. Dick Best found his services discontinued in 1994 after an excellent record of 13 wins from 17 matches and now the RFU is looking at a crop of young coaches, all men with promise with their way to make but desperately short of the experience and stature which the England job now requires.

The coaching structure is the direct responsibility of Don Rutherford, the RFU director of rugby, whose approach to Auckland's Graham Henry in July so angered Rowell and probably tilted the balance in favour of resignation. Rutherford argued then, and would argue again, that it is his responsibility to maintain contact with the world's best in a fluid professional world.

In an ideal world, the best would be found at home but the debate of the past few days makes it patently clear that it is not. Perhaps that is the area to which Cotton, who has responsibility for the playing philosophy in England, should now turn his gaze.

Roger Uttley may return in a different guise, that of manager

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Most declarers see the need to duck the opening lead when they hold A x x facing three small. There are some situations that are essentially the same but more difficult to spot. The hand for this week's Refresher comes from a club team tournament.

Dealer South	Love all	IMPs
<p> ♠ A2 ♥ K973 ♦ A964 ♣ 865 ♠ 10743 ♥ 862 ♦ 7 ♣ AJ972 </p>	<p> N ♠ 9865 ♥ A104 ♦ K103 ♣ 103 E ♠ KQJ ♥ Q5 ♦ QJ852 ♣ KQ4 </p>	

S	W	N	E
1 D	Pass	1 H	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: seven of clubs

West led the seven of clubs to East's ten. At one table declarer won and ran the queen of diamonds. East won and played a second club. After West had taken four club winners he switched to a heart and declarer went two down.

At the other table declarer ducked the ten of clubs. East played a second club and declarer's king was allowed to hold (though there was not much point in West ducking — he could tell that East did not have a third club). Declarer now took a diamond finesse but when East won he could do no harm and in the fullness of time declarer made three spades, a heart, four diamonds and a club.

Although declarer did well, East could have done better. He could tell from his hand

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Mind Sports Olympiad

In the chess section of the Mind Sports Olympiad in progress at the Royal Festival Hall, Michael Adams, the co-British champion, leads with eight points from nine. In joint second place with seven points are Keith Arkell, James Plaskett and Matthew Sadler. Plaskett moved up the field thanks to this energetic win.

White: James Plaskett. Black: Julian Hodgson. Mind Sports Olympiad August 1997

Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	d6
3 d4	cxd4
4 Nxd4	Nf6
5 Nc3	g6
6 Bc3	Bg7
7 f3	O-O
8 Qd2	Nc6
9 Bc4	Bd7
10 Bb3	Rc8
11 h4	h5
12 O-O	Nc5
13 Bg5	Rc5
14 h4	Nc4
15 Qc3	b5
16 Rf1	Ng4
17 Re2	Bc4
18 Qc4	h6
19 e5	Bc6
20 ex6	ex6
21 Re1	Qd7
22 Bc6	Nd6
23 Rf6	Kf7
24 Rf6	Rg7
25 Re6	B3
26 Nc4	Bc4
27 Qc4	Qc6
28 Qc6	Rc6
30 Bc4	Rc4

On Saturday August 23, the first virtual chess tournament will be launched. Entry is free and those interested can enter by e-mail to msc@chessworks.com

Medals table

After three days of competition at the Mind Sports Olympiad, the medals table is as follows:

	G	S	B	Total
England	3	5	5	11
United States	2	0	0	2
Barbados	1	0	0	1
France	1	0	0	1
Holland	1	0	0	1
Ireland	0	1	0	1
Scotland	0	1	0	1
South Africa	0	1	0	1
Italy	0	0	1	1
New Zealand	0	0	1	1
Scotland	0	0	1	1

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

Black to play. This position is from the game Chuevites — Picket, Holland 1997. Black is threatened with a brutal checkmate on g7. What is his best response?

Solution on page 46

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

YERBA BUENA

- a. Good morning
- b. A Mexican exclamation
- c. A herb

SUKEY

- a. A carriage
- b. A kettle
- c. A tart

SERAB

- a. A mirage
- b. A beetle
- c. An Indian Arab

VOMITY

- a. Redolent of vomit
- b. Enmity
- c. Speed

Answers on page 46

CLUB-BY-CLUB GUIDE TO THE ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP FIRST DIVISION

Bath

A season with no trophy will only add to Bath's motivation and, if they can overcome the absence of so many injured internationals in the first month, they are sure to lay down a stern challenge. Jim Blair, their new fitness adviser, has brought many New Zealand drills with him, the coaching team has had time to adjust to the role and the squad has already proved that it can play rugby of the highest quality. Perhaps still vulnerable on soft grounds against bigger packs. Coaching director: Andy Keast. Assistant: Clive Woodward. Captain: Andy Keast. Club secretary: Alan Davies. Club treasurer: Alan Davies. Club manager: Alan Davies. Club chairman: Alan Davies. Club members: Alan Davies. Club sponsors: Alan Davies. Club partners: Alan Davies. Club supporters: Alan Davies. Club fans: Alan Davies. Club players: Alan Davies. Club coaches: Alan Davies. Club referees: Alan Davies. Club officials: Alan Davies. Club stewards: Alan Davies. Club volunteers: Alan Davies. Club helpers: Alan Davies. Club assistants: Alan Davies. Club cleaners: Alan Davies. Club gardeners: Alan Davies. Club painters: Alan Davies. Club electricians: Alan Davies. Club plumbers: Alan Davies. Club carpenters: Alan Davies. Club joiners: Alan Davies. Club fitters: Alan Davies. Club welders: Alan Davies. Club blacksmiths: Alan Davies. Club farriers: Alan Davies. Club veterinarians: Alan Davies. Club accountants: Alan Davies. Club lawyers: Alan Davies. Club doctors: Alan Davies. Club dentists: Alan Davies. Club opticians: Alan Davies. Club optometrists: Alan Davies. Club audiologists: Alan Davies. Club speech therapists: Alan Davies. Club dietitians: Alan Davies. Club nutritionists: Alan Davies. Club physiotherapists: Alan Davies. Club massage therapists: Alan Davies. Club acupuncturists: Alan Davies. Club chiropractors: Alan Davies. Club osteopaths: Alan Davies. Club naturopaths: Alan Davies. Club herbalists: Alan Davies. Club yoga instructors: Alan Davies. Club Pilates instructors: Alan Davies. Club personal trainers: Alan Davies. Club fitness instructors: Alan Davies. Club swimming instructors: Alan Davies. Club dance instructors: Alan Davies. Club music instructors: Alan Davies. Club art instructors: Alan Davies. Club drama instructors: Alan Davies. Club sports instructors: Alan Davies. Club life instructors: Alan Davies. Club business instructors: Alan Davies. Club management instructors: Alan Davies. Club leadership instructors: Alan Davies. Club communication instructors: Alan Davies. Club teamwork instructors: Alan Davies. Club problem-solving instructors: Alan Davies. Club decision-making instructors: Alan Davies. Club conflict-resolution instructors: Alan Davies. Club negotiation instructors: Alan Davies. Club mediation instructors: Alan Davies. Club arbitration instructors: Alan Davies. Club dispute-resolution instructors: Alan Davies. Club legal advisors: Alan Davies. Club financial advisors: Alan Davies. Club tax advisors: Alan Davies. Club insurance advisors: Alan Davies. Club investment advisors: Alan Davies. Club estate planners: Alan Davies. Club probate lawyers: Alan Davies. Club conveyancers: Alan Davies. Club solicitors: Alan Davies. Club barristers: Alan Davies. Club judges: Alan Davies. Club magistrates: Alan Davies. Club justices: Alan Davies. Club judges of appeal: Alan Davies. Lord Justices of Appeal: Alan Davies. Justices of the Supreme Court: Alan Davies. Justices of the House of Lords: Alan Davies. Justices of the Privy Council: Alan Davies. Justices of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council: Alan Davies. Justices of the Federal Court of Australia: Alan Davies. Justices of the High Court of Australia: Alan Davies. Justices of the Supreme Court of New South Wales: Alan Davies. Justices of the Supreme Court of Victoria: Alan Davies. Justices of the Supreme Court of Queensland: Alan Davies. Justices of the Supreme Court of Western Australia: Alan Davies. 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SWIMMING: RUSSIAN MAKES WINNING RETURN TO EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Smith sees gold run ended by Hase

FROM CRAIG LORD IN SEVILLE

THERE could be little doubt that Alexander Popov and Dagmar Hase produced the most popular victories of the European championships here so far yesterday — the Russian for a display of excellence and courage, the former East German for stopping the Michelle Smith gold rush.

A wall of swimmers, coaches and spectators rose to their feet at the San Pablo pool when Popov cruised home in the manner of a battleship ploughing through a flotilla of tugs to collect a record fourth successive title in the 100 metres freestyle. The time

Seville results 45

was 49.09sec, a championship record by 0.01sec and the latest in a series of swims in which Popov has emulated his hero, Sergei Bubka, the pole vaulter by shaving fractions off his own previous best mark.

Popov's style, grace and ability to roll on a wave in a perpetual motion that suffers no "dead zone" or break in stroke pattern, is all the more remarkable for coming a year after he was stabbed in the stomach by a water-melon seller in a street fight in Moscow.

Popov, 25, a Russian who trains at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, said that his effort marked his best technical effort in 2½ years, which included his two victories at the Atlanta Olympic Games last year, when he became the first man since

Johnny "Tarzan" Weismuller in 1928 to retain the 100 metres title.

The same wall of applause that greeted Popov had earlier hailed Hase who, as the 1992 Olympic champion, did to Smith in the 400 metres freestyle, what the 1996 Olympic champion from Ireland had done to those in her first two races here.

With Smith in lane eight and Hase in lane two, the battling pair eyed each other across the pool, but Smith seemed to have the advantage as she was on Hase's blind side down the last length.

Hase, who at 27 is four days younger than Smith, had the extra stamina, though, and edged away in the closing 20 metres to clock 4min 09.58sec to Smith's 4min 10.50sec. In Atlanta, Smith had swum a time of 4min 07.25sec.

The irony of Hase's defeat of Smith, which cost the Irishwoman a reputed five-figure sum promised by a company for each gold medal that she wins, was lost on few. Smith had been halted in her efforts to surpass the record of four individual European titles by one of the last products of the East German medal factory that won 97 out of 144 titles until the Berlin Wall fell in 1989.

The irony went deeper still. Hase has been at the centre of speculation about drugs use in much the same way as Smith, who failed to make the top 16 in any races in the 1989 championships in Bonn, when Hase won the 200 metres backstroke for East Germany. To win her 1992 Olympic title, Hase beat Ja-



Grace under pressure: the final of the women's 100 metres backstroke at the European championships gets under way. It was won by Antje Buschschulte, of Germany

net Evans, the then reigning champion from the United States and the woman who in Atlanta said that there was "speculation about her [Smith] out there on the deck", which sparked the controversy.

Hase is a former training partner of Astrid Strauss, the

East German who retired during a two-year suspension for a positive drugs test, and she dedicated her 1992 Olympic gold medal to Strauss. Hase also courted controversy when she was paid to withdraw from the 1994 world championship 200 metres freestyle final to make

way for a team-mate, Franziska van Almsick. For Great Britain, Sara Price set a national record of 1min 02.78sec in the morning heats and finished fifth in the final in a slightly slower time, while Adam Ruckwood finished fourth in the 200 metres backstroke.

Exit of Coates increases Tour's woes

THE troubles that have dogged the Women Professional Golfers' European Tour have surfaced again with the announcement that Terry Coates, the chairman and chief executive, will resign next March (John Hopkins writes).

The official reason is that Coates will have done five years by then and wants to do something else.

There is no doubt, however, that Coates's departure is a result of the criticism he and Gill Wilson, the deputy chief executive, faced at the players' annual meeting in May. Wilson was so incensed by it that she resigned there and then. It is hardly credible that Coates, who is 66, has given up in order to develop his sports consultancy business, though this is given as the official reason.

"The Tour has not been functioning as it should," Pia Nilsson, the captain of the Europe Solheim Cup team, said. "I feel that everyone has to take stock and regroup."

Ballesteros under time pressure

FROM JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

SLOW play is a blight on professional golf in Europe and attempts to do something about it are to be applauded, but when one was made at the K Club here yesterday, the man at whom it was aimed, Severiano Ballesteros, did not appreciate the zealousness of the PGA European Tour officials involved.

After the first round of the Smurfit European Open, Ballesteros said that he, Padraig Harrington and Per-Ulrik Johansson, who were playing together, had been rushed by the tournament referees and such actions had cost them strokes. Harrington had a 70, two under par, Johansson a 68 and Ballesteros a 73.

This leaves them some way behind Colin Montgomerie, whose 64 was a course record and all the more meritorious in that it came after a long journey from Colorado on Monday where he had defeated Phil Mickelson in a

made-for-TV match. But, since Harrington is on the cusp of the Ryder Cup team — he is eleventh in the table and Johansson is seventh — every stroke of theirs is important.

Ballesteros appreciates this more than most, for he is the Europe captain and he requested to play with these two men so that he could see how they coped under pressure.

"Harrington is trying to make the [Ryder Cup] team," Ballesteros said angrily. "Johansson is not safe yet and the referees put me off. What the hell is going on? It looked as though they were hurrying us."

At a players' meeting in Sweden a few weeks ago, the main item on the agenda was slow play. The players want something to be done about it — not before time. Play on the European Tour is sluggish and Tom Lehman and Nick Price are just two visiting players who have commented on it recently. At Loch Lomond, the chorus of criticism for 5½-hour rounds was led by Montgomerie. "Slow play is very much top of the players'

agenda and thus it is top of our agenda," Andy McFee, the tournament director here, said.

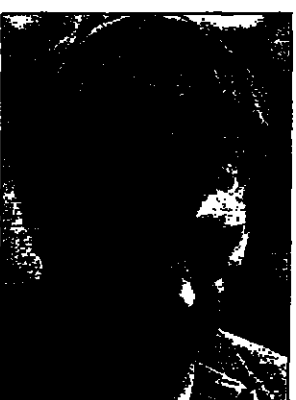
Ballesteros and his group moved at an acceptable pace over their outward nine, but then slowed down. By the time they reached their tenth green, they had fallen 1½ holes behind the group in front and on their fourteenth hole, Ballesteros was warned for slow play, having taken too long to hit his tee shot on this

213-yard hole. The group lost a further ten minutes playing the last three holes.

"The referee warning us was rushing us," Ballesteros said. "I three-putted the par-three, Harrington missed a short putt and Johansson, too. They have to understand we had a hard time getting from green to tee and also there were a lot of people moving around down the fairways."

"I do understand that the pace of play is not always caused by slow play," McFee said. "I realise there were more people watching Seve. But every player has one responsibility — to stay close to the group in front — and they had not. Mark James's group went round in 4hr 25min, whereas Seve's group in the match behind took 4hr 38min."

Montgomerie added his support to McFee's actions. "I support any referee who asks anyone to speed up," the tournament leader, who is 17 under par for his last two rounds in Ireland, said.



Ballesteros: unhappy

Scores, page 45

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

YERBA BUENA

(a) A trailing perennial herb, *Satureja douglasii* (formerly *Micromeria chamissonis*) of the family Labiatae, native to western North America and bearing aromatic leaves and white or purplish flowers. From the Spanish for "good herb". John Steinbeck, *Tortilla Flat*, 1935: "Tea made from yerba buena will be good."

SUKEY

(b) A tea-kettle. The diminutive of Susan, Susanna, the female name. From the nursery rhyme *Polly put the kettle on*. "I'll just get the sukey going, and then we'll have a nice cup of tea."

SERAB

(c) A mirage. An adaptation of the Arabic *sarīb*, "Sons of blasting light perchance illusion! The glittering Serab which lures his eye."

VOMITY

(d) Redolent of vomit. J. D. Salinger, *Catcher in the Rye*, 1951: "The cab I had was a real old one that smelled like someone'd just tossed his cookies in it. I always get these vomity kind of cabs if I go anywhere late at night."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Bxb4+! wins the white queen

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Leek put down solid foundations

AFTER the euphoria of their promotion, Leek Town received notice of the hard realities of life in the Vauxhall Conference when they played their first home match against Southport at Harrison Park on Tuesday night (Walter Gammie writes).

Reduced to ten men just before half-time when Dean Trotter, a new signing from Stalybridge Celtic, was sent off for retaliation, Leek, nonetheless, looked increasingly likely to hang on for a draw until they conceded a goal in stoppage time.

Peter Ward, the Leek manager, has already presided over substantial rebuilding of the team that won the UniBond League. To supply experience, he brought in Wayne Biggins, 35, released by Wigan Athletic, and Ray Walker, 33, given a free transfer after 14 years with Port Vale. The other recruits are younger, with Ray Newlands, 25, a goalkeeper released by Torquay United, the oldest of the batch.

With Rob Bailey arriving from Stoke City as the club's first full-time commercial

manager, £12,000 having been spent on improving the pitch and a new directors' lounge soon to be opened, activity has been furious all round. A crowd of 1,130 on Tuesday was a healthy improvement on the average last season of 450.

Ward, 49, an area manager for an insurance company, whose playing career was wrecked by injury when he was 24, is a realist. "We must be one of the smallest towns in the Conference, with a population of 19,000 or so," he said. "Our job can only be to consolidate our position."

Dentists and dilemmas

TELEVISION CHOICE

Friends

Channel 4, 9.00pm

An episode that will not be among anybody's favourites but still up to *Friends* standard. Tonight Chandler is on course for Heartbreak Hotel when girlfriend Janice (she of the hyena laugh) is caught kissing her former husband. Should he bow out and let them have another go at their marriage or should he selfishly cling on to the "movie love" he has for her? Millions of viewers will have no trouble with that one if it means no more Janice. Meanwhile, Phoebe has a toothache which requires immediate dental attention. But she is convinced that whenever she goes to the dentist someone she knows dies. For her flossing is not so much dental hygiene as a matter of life or death. But if you've gotta go, you gotta go. Who will fall victim to Phoebe's curse this time?

Frasier

Channel 4, 10.00pm

It is not often that one is treated to the sight of Dr Niles Crane, eminent psychologist and opera buff, up to his elbows in the business end of a frozen turkey. He has to prepare Thanksgiving dinner while Frasier and his former wife Lilith fuss over their son's future education. Competition for entry into the best school is cut-throat, so they will go to virtually any lengths to secure a place for him, even trying a spot of bribery and corruption if it helps them to get their way. Meanwhile, son Frederick is left to the tender mercies of his Uncle Niles and his grandmother Martin. Martin's efforts to turn the boy into a "normal kid" by playing catch with him go horribly wrong, prompting Niles to renege. When will you learn, Dad, that all us Crane boys are good at catching is sarcastic nuance and the occasional virus?

Room 101

BBC2 10.00pm

The presenter Nick Hancock describes this as "the most fun on TV since the Shopping Channel did its special on ceramic cats." And he should know. Over the weeks his guests have been consigning a succession of ghastly, kitsch or annoying things to the black hole of Room 101. The comedian Alan Davies is this week's guest in the Orwellian



David Hyde Pierce is Niles Crane (C4)

nightmare and great value he is, too. Up for universal publishing are the sound of post people walking, keeping birds in cages ("and then they put them near the window so they can see out..."), live television and Liverpool. Fortunately he makes them a lot funnier than this list promises. On the downside is Nick Hancock's tendency to be Mr Clever Clags and outshine his guests. If he continues in this vein he may end up as a candidate for Room 101 himself.

King of the Hill

Channel 4, 10.30pm

Thank Hill is a man who knows how to deal with emotions. He swallows them, just like every red-blooded American male should. Not for him those Californian ways of his wife Peggy who believes in letting emotions run free. No stress, if mending something is mechanical. Everything is all that is required. In Mike Judge's adult cartoon of suburban Southern good 'ol boys this week, Hank comes face to face with that nightmare of all men, a crying teenage female. Lesnane, his middle ward, has been dumped and she is making Hank's life hell. Despite his best efforts at making her stop crying, Hank has to deal with her as he would his muck, with about as much success. The jokes come from the familiarity of the characters which is probably why this is a bigger hit in America than here. But give it time. Frances Lass

RADIO CHOICE

Hype or Hypocrites?

Radio 4, 8.05pm

James Boyle, Controller of Radio 4, may have finished the main pieces in his next scheduling puzzle but there is still plenty of time to be dealt with, so I hope he will take on board the need to do something about the network's programme titles. The one above is on a new series which promises to be entertaining and stimulating, but why does the ordinary (busy) listener have to read a synopsis to discover what the programmes are about? They are actually about something important — the relationship between society and science — and the first discussion, chaired by Jer Nelson, asks whether ethics get in the way of scientific progress. Panelists are Steve Jones, Gerald Evan, Sheila McLean and Sara Maitland.

Showerheads and DfEE

Radio 4, 12.25pm (FM only)

A recent television series dramatised the plight of Londoners who fled the city in the early part of this century to become the staple fruit-picking agricultural labour force in rural areas of the South East. No more: that role nowadays belongs to a community of about 10,000 Sikhs, who settled in the Midway towns during the mass immigration of the 1950s. There is much to this link between the garden of England and Punjab, India's granary. *Paradise City* 12.30-2.30 the story of the Sikhs involved and discovers that much of the cash earned in Kent was repatriated and used to buy farming equipment in Punjab. But now the Punjabis are being ousted by cheaper labour: students from Eastern Europe. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 8.00 Simon Mayo 11.30 Radio Roadshow, Live from Woodlands 12.30pm Newsweek 12.45 Jo White 2.00pm Nick Campbell 4.00 Keith Greening 6.30pm Newsbeat 6.30 Pete Tong — Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 3.00am Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05pm John Durr 7.00pm Denis Quinn Sherris The Best of Times 7.30pm John Peel 9.15 The Taker of Panama (9.10) 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00pm Tracey Mee 12.00am Sam McGarry

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.30 The Mags 12.00pm Midday News 2.00pm Focus on the 4.00pm Janet Worricker Nationwide 7.00pm News Extra 7.30pm 560 Sports, includes commentary on Manchester City v Tottenham. Review of the second day's play in the sixth Test: the Oval 10.00pm 5 at the Fringe 10.30pm Talk 11.00pm News Extra 12.00am After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Richard Delany

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Ward 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm Peter Dinklage 7.00am Radio 5 10.00pm James White 1.00am Mike Dolan

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore, includes John Stanley (Organ Concerto No 4 in C minor) Vaughan Williams (The Lark Ascending)

9.00 Morning collection, with Celine Vang. Includes Mozart (Serenade in G, K525, Eine Kleine Nachtmusik); Dowland (Clavier or Clavichord Suite) 10.00 Morning collection, with Celine Vang. Includes Mozart (Serenade in G, K525, Eine Kleine Nachtmusik); Dowland (Clavier or Clavichord Suite) 11.00pm Elmhurst International Festival, Thomas Zehnhammer, violin, Boris Berezovsky, piano, Schumann (Violin Sonata No 1 in A minor, Op. 105); Bartok (2nd Violin Concerto, Op. 121); 11.40pm Northern Lights, Colin Ball recalls the Festival focusing on the cultural explosion in Vienna 12.00pm Concert, part two, Beethoven (Three Pieces); Schumann (Violin Sonata No 2 in D minor, Op. 121)

1.00pm News; 56 David's Hall Luminous Recital, Gary Douglas, piano, Beethoven (Piano Sonata in C, Op. 53, Waldstein); Liszt (Piano Sonata in B) 2.00pm BBC Proms 37 (7) 3.45pm Amsterdam Local Standard Quartet, A performance of Baroque recorder concertos 4.00pm Morning the Archibuteo Sir John Drummond introduces Lucia Popp, soprano, and Geoffrey Parsons, piano, performing folk songs

5.55pm Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00pm News Briefing 6.10pm Farming Today 6.25pm Prayer for the Day 6.30pm Today, includes Thought for the Day 6.45pm Every Second Thing by Gillian Slovo 6.55pm Weather 7.00pm News 7.05pm Desert Island Discs (7) 7.45pm Feedback, with Chris Dunaway 10.00pm News; LW (FM), Five celebrated court cases dramatised by Matthew Solon 10.10pm Daily Service (LW) 10.15pm On This Day (LW) 10.30pm Women's World 10.40pm News 10.50pm 1.00pm Test Match Special (LW) 11.30pm The Natural History Programme (FM) 12.00pm News You and Yours (FM), with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm Shakespeare and Duff (FM), See Choice 12.55pm Weather 1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40pm The Archibuteo (FM) (7) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast 1.40-7.00pm Test Match Special (LW) 2.00pm News; The Summer Series: A Pair of Blue Eyes (FM), by Thomas Hardy, with Nigel Stock 3.00pm News; The Afternoon Shift (FM) 4.00pm News 4.05pm Kaleidoscope (FM), Tim Marlow talks to Henry Thompson about his biography of Peter Cook. Plus he looks at a new play set around the foodies Ryan Giggs

4.45pm Short Story: An Actor's Tale — Summer Season (FM), written and read by Steven Berkoff 5.00pm PM (FM) 5.55pm Shipping Forecast 5.55pm Weather 6.00pm News 6.05pm Desert Island Discs (7) 6.45pm Feedback, with Chris Dunaway 6.50pm Kaleidoscope, The hard of four programmes presented by Sara Price (7) 7.15pm Letter from America, by Martin Cooke 7.30pm Kaleidoscope (7) 7.55pm Weather 10.00pm The World Tonight, with Alan Little 10.45pm Book at Bedtime: Midnight's Children, by Salman Rushdie. Read by Roehin Sethi (10/15) 11.25pm Test Junction, with Patrick Harrigan 11.45pm The Big Unravel, Professor Elaine Pagels believes the Devil was an idea thought up by early religious spokesmen (7) 12.00pm News 12.25pm News; Weather 12.30pm The Lady Book: Diogenes Elites (10/15) (7) 12.45pm Shipping Forecast 1.00am World Service

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Not so much a broadside as a damp squib

Milton's *Paradise Lost* should come with a warning on the cover: use sparingly. On Wednesday night, *Inspector Morse* got it about right with a couple of lines at the end of two hours of welcome repetition. The infernal serpent, he was, whose gulls, stirred up with envy and revenge, deceived the mother of mankind. With that, it was off for a couple of celebratory pints. With Sergeant Lewis, too, don't you know.

But last night, Marc Karlin served up great goblets of the stuff. *Films of Fire: The Serpent* (Channel 4) as he had a decidedly dated go at an ultimate employer. Rupert Murdoch, it would seem, wouldn't let well not necessarily. I can see that there could be a minority of you out there who believe Murdoch is Satan incarnate and Channel 4's remit is, after all, all about minority interests, so

there is nothing wrong with the idea in general. It was the execution that was so depressing. You deserved better—you really did, you little minority you. I mean, Dennis Potter didn't like Murdoch either, but think what fun his attack might have been: old songs, a bit of dancing and oodles of gratuitous nudity. Apart from the appearance of a rather fed-up page three girl and a lot of old Milton, Karlin's version was nothing like that.

Indeed, it was nothing like anything you've seen on television recently. That could have been a good thing or it could have been an old-fashioned, deeply pretentious thing—I leave the final choice to you. Our hero, such as he was, was Michael Deakin, played by Nicholas Farrell. A few token autobiographical details were sketched in by a disembodied narrator who was also his nephew, architect, married, twins, fond of astronomy

—but they weren't important. What allegedly was important was that Deakin fell asleep on a broken-down train and spent the rest of the play dreaming and listening to another disembodied voice, who purported to be the Voice of Reason. Seemed more Bunyan than Milton, but that's probably not important either.

So what was, you ask? Well, Deakin was supposed to be a cross with Murdoch because football wasn't on terrestrial television any more. However, what he actually spent most time pining up and down in front of a blue screen and whining to Fiona Shaw's Voice of Reason about was—wait for it, wait for it—the significance of the silence which greeted Murdoch's speech to the Edinburgh Television Festival in 1992. Suddenly, as Murdoch was morphed into Satan and Kelvin

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

MacKenzie into a super-saravay serpent, the scales dropped from my eyes. I'd forgotten the first law of television and so, apparently, had Karlin. For the benefit of us and anybody who might be making the annual pilgrimage north at the moment, the first law clearly states: "Nothing that seems like a great idea in the bar of the George Hotel in Edinburgh during the Television Festival actually is."

More Voltaire perhaps than Milton, but now who's being pretentious? Time to move on. But not far. For just as these seemed little new about Murdoch-bashing, we didn't exactly seem to be breaking new ground in *Flightpaths to the Gods* (BBC2). But then, as the breaking of very old ground was our subject, perhaps this was appropriate. I can't remember when I last gave the Nazca Desert much thought, but there was something strangely enjoyable about how it all came back: straight lines in the Peruvian desert, huge animals only visible from the air, Erich von Daniken. Erich von Daniken? This was too good to be true. On first meeting, Dr Tony Spawforth was perfect casting, an aspiring Indiana Jones with a breathless, excitable delivery that urged you to believe everything he said. Sadly, however, I fell at the first hurdle when he invited us to

believe that he had mounted a special expedition to the Nazca. He was there all right, and so were other scientists, but there was no sense of that round-the-camp-fire camaraderie, nor much in the way of scientific breakthrough. Still, the cobbling together was first-class and the section that "shamanic nasal discharges" will stay in the memory for a long time. Mind you, if they must go around snorting cactus, what do they expect? Clear sinuses?

Von Daniken's extraterrestrial explanation was diplomatically dismissed as "an option awaiting evidence". In its place, Spawforth substituted a plausible alternative, although it has to be said you could drive the *Starship Enterprise* through some of the gaps in the evidence. His three-fold conclusion was that all the Nazca geoglyphs were built by an ancient but definitely terrestrial Nazca people over a thousand-year period; that the animal figures owed a lot to the custom of snuffing shamans flying around while under the influence of the San Pedro cactus; and that the geometric trapezoids (Von Daniken's runways) were effectively part of a huge outdoor temple built—during a 40-year drought—to bring rain to the desert. That just left the funny shaped skulls with holes in them, but the ancient art of skull-binding, together with a bit of do-it-yourself repriming, soon sorted that out.

A spot of do-it-yourself repriming appears an increasingly attractive option as one charts the progress of *Philosophy's Rest* (BBC1), where my initial enthusiasm is all but spent. It has slipped further and further into tired stereotype and the chances of comic paradise being found—let alone regained—are looking decidedly slim.

8.00am Business Breakfast (13445)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (58813)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (5007718)
9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (5578008)
9.50 Editors: Forever Young: Personalities reveal their secrets (1) (5881454)
10.20 Put It to the Test with Carol Vorderman (1) (5881454)
10.45 News: Regional News (1) and weather (1) (5881454)
10.50 Cricket: Sixth Test—England v Australia: Commentary on the second day by Richie Benaud, Geoffrey Boycott, David Gower and Ian Chappell. Continued on BBC2 (5881454)
12.35pm Neighbours (1) (5881454)
1.00 News (1) and weather (1) (5881454)
1.30 Regional News (1) (5881454)
1.40 Cricket: Sixth Test. The afternoon session at the Oval. Continued on BBC2. Followed by: The Nations' Favourite Children's Book (5881454)
4.00 Popeye (282087) 4.10 To Me, to You (1) (5881454) 4.35 It's Never Work (1) (5881454) 5.00 Newsround (1) (2401229) 5.10 Record Breakers (1) (5881454)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (5881454)
6.00 News (1) and weather (1) (5881454)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (1) (5881454)
7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook: Weatherman Michael Fish and Ian McEwan: take part in the cooking challenge. Also: The Nations' Favourite Children's Book. Hosted by Fern Britton (1) (5881454)
7.30 Top of the Pops (1) (5881454)
9.00 Only Fools and Horses: Del decides to take the law into his own hands. Classic comedy, starring David Jason, Nicholas Lyndhurst and Buster Merryfield (1) (5881454)
5.0 Get Fit with Brittas: Chris Barrie is joined by June Whitfield, who explains how physical activity cheers her up. Last in series (1) (449494)
10.45 News: Regional News (1) and weather (1) (5881454)
11.00 White Sands (1982) starring Mickey Rourke, William Baltch and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio. A small-town deputy discovers a stranger's corpse with a suitcase containing \$500,000, and vows to solve the mystery. But he reckons without FBI cover-ups, narcotics deals and a mysterious female killer getting in the way of his investigation. Directed by Robert Rodriguez (1) (5881454)
11.30 The Millionaire (1985) with Richard Gere, John Candy and Loretta Devai. A small-town deputy discovers a stranger's corpse with a suitcase containing \$500,000, and vows to solve the mystery. But he reckons without FBI cover-ups, narcotics deals and a mysterious female killer getting in the way of his investigation. Directed by Robert Rodriguez (1) (5881454)
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12.25 Weather (1) (5881454)

8.00am Open University: Changing Berlin: Changing Europe (1233333) 8.25 Berlin: Unemployment and the Family (1097700) 8.50 The Eurovision Song Contest: Counting the Cost (5088822)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (1 and signing) (5881454)
7.30 Teletubbies (1) (4210025) 7.55 Charlie Chalk (1) (1335513) 8.10 Peppercorns (1) (1307080) 8.35 Cartoon: Critics (1) (5471398) 9.05 Spiderman (1) (7818822) 9.35 Young People's Specials (1) (5881454) 10.05 Smurfs' Adventures (1) (5881454) 10.25 Mr Benn (1) (4208822) 10.45 Teletubbies (1) (4210025)
11.15 Aweash with Colour (5881454)
11.45 Everglades (7901445)
12.35pm Cricket: Sixth Test. England v Australia from The Oval (1821025)
1.00 Today's Gourmet (1) (33342) 1.30 True Latin's Tricks of the Trade (1) (5881454) 1.40 Bookbusters (5881454) 2.00 Open View (4210025) 2.05 Birds with Tony Soper (5881454)
2.25 Racing from Goodwood featuring the 2.40, 3.10 and 3.40 races (5881454)
3.55 News (1) and weather (1) (5881454)
4.00 Cricket: Sixth Test. Action through to the close of play (72001261)
6.25 Sergeant Rutledge (1950) A respected cavalry officer defends a black soldier accused of rape and murder in 1880s Arizona. With Jeffrey Hunter, Woody Strode and Constance Tamm. Directed by John Ford (1) (5881454)
8.15 They Who Dare Profile of Alessandro Cudo, who specialises in scaling frozen waterfalls and glacier fissures, as he attempts to reach the summit of Mont Blanc (1) (277174)
8.30 Gardeners' World: The effects of wildlife on tomatoes and border plants; an Irishwoman's English-style plot (1) (4919)
9.00 Bottom: Corner shops come under the scrutiny of the sordid bachelor boys (1) (430701)
9.30 Rob C. Nesbitt: The Scottish sage's battle with cancer continues (1) (5881454)
10.00 Rooster 101: Comedian Alan Davies reveals the things he hates (1) (78754)
10.30 Newsnight (1) (297349) 11.15 Edinburgh Comedy (5881454) 11.55 Cricket: Sixth Test. Highlights (400174)
12.30am Learning Zone: We the Peoples (5881454)
12.35 Death in Venice (1971) Moving drama about the last days of the German composer who becomes obsessed with a beautiful young boy while staying in Venice. With Dirk Bogarde, Bjorn Andresen and Silvana Mangano. Directed by Luchino Visconti (1) (5881454)
2.40-2.45 Weather (7384526)

8.00am GMTV (7441551)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (1) (5881454)
9.55 Judge Judy (1) (5881454)
10.20 News (1) (5881454)
10.25 Regional News (1) (5881454)
10.30 Charley and the Angel (1973) with Fred MacKaye, Orla Lassman and Henry Morgan. An angel helps a businessman to see the error of his ways. Directed by Vincent McEvilly (5881454)
12.20pm Regional News (1) (5881454)
12.30 News (1) and weather (1) (5881454)
12.55 Designed by Emanuel (1) (1721071)
1.25 Home and Away (1) (14832532)
1.50 Toby Tyler (1959) with Kevin Corcoran, Henry Calvin and Gene Sheldon. Convinced his foster parents do not want him, a young boy runs away to join a circus. Directed by Charles Barton (14832532)
3.20 News (1) (2225867)
3.25 Regional News (1) (2224938)
3.30 Rooster and Jim (1) (4510321) 3.40 Paddington Bear (5881454) 3.50 Zorro: Summer Specials 1997 (1) (5881454) 4.00 Alexander the Sorcerer's Apprentice (1) (218613) 4.15 The Real Ghostbusters (1) (5881454) 4.40 You'll Never Believe It (1) (2224938)
5.10 A Country Practice (2357464)
5.40 News (1) and weather (1) (5881454)
6.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (5881454)
6.25 HTV Weather (5881454)
6.30 The West Tonight (1) (5881454)
7.00 Eye Spy: More real-life incidents caught on surveillance cameras (1) (5881454)
7.30 Coronation Street: Natalie sets herself to pay Sally a visit (1) (209)
8.00 The Bill: A police informant disappears (1) (2388)
8.30 Surprise Surprise: Tom O'Connor, Mike Summerbee, Phil de Gamille and North and South assist Cilla Black (1) (32025)
9.30 Tarrant's 10 Years on TV Highlights: compiled from a decade of the On TV show (1) (5881454)
10.00 News (1) and weather (1) (5881454)
10.30 Regional News (1) (5881454)
10.40 Late and Live: This week's guest is football agent, Eric Hall (5881454)
12.10am Weekly World News: Stories taken from the American tabloid newspaper (5881454)
12.40 The Paul Ross Show (222472)
2.10 Trauma (1983) with Brigit Dill, Lou Castel and Amin Moultrie. A detective's assistant decides to do a little undercover work of her own, when a man asks her to find his missing wife. Directed by Ken Kinnans (143439)
3.50 Coach (1) (4124767) 4.20 Sound Bites (2227385) 4.35 An Invitation to Remember (7000403) 5.00 Coronation Street (1) (11472) 5.30 News (1) (5881454)

As HTV West except:
10.30am 24 Hours (75071)
11.00 Highway to Heaven (1875532)
11.50 Dogs with Dumber (5881454)
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1.50 Murder, She Wrote (5881454)
2.00 Surprise Chefs (5881454)
2.10-2.40 Shortland Street (2357464)
2.40 Film: Notorious (5881454)
2.50-3.20 The LADS (4658989)
3.30 Box Office America (1835101)
3.40 Baywatch (433101)
4.00 Central Jobfinder '97 (3779168)
5.20 Asian Eye (5881454)
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For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1
6.00am Morning Glory (5881454) 8.00 Page and Kathie Lee (10.00) 10.00 The View (5881454) 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5881454) 1.00pm Oprah (5881454) 2.00 Jerry Jones (5881454) 3.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5881454) 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5881454) 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5881454) 6.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5881454) 7.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5881454) 8.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5881454) 9.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5881454) 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5881454) 11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5881454) 12.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (5881454)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
6.00pm Stagecoach (1986) (5881454) 8.00 The Badly (1986) (5881454) 10.00 Predator (1987) (5881454) 12.00 The Badly (1986) (5881454) 2.00 The Badly (1986) (5881454) 4.00 The Badly (1986) (5881454) 6.00 The Badly (1986) (5881454) 8.00 The Badly (1986) (5881454) 10.00 The Badly (1986) (5881454) 12.00 The Badly (1986) (5881454)

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00pm Sports Centre (7067) 7.30 Wheeling (4006) 8.30 Racing News (2557) 9.00 Sports Centre (1871) 9.30 America (5881454) 10.00 Sports Centre (1871) 10.30 America (5881454) 11.00 Sports Centre (1871) 11.30 America (5881454) 12.00 Sports Centre (1871) 12.30 America (5881454)

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00pm Sports Centre (7067) 7.30 Wheeling (4006) 8.30 Racing News (2557) 9.00 Sports Centre (1871) 9.30 America (5881454) 10.00 Sports Centre (1871) 10.30 America (5881454) 11.00 Sports Centre (1871) 11.30 America (5881454) 12.00 Sports Centre (1871) 12.30 America (5881454)

SKY SPORTS 3
7.00pm Sports Centre (7067) 7.30 Wheeling (4006) 8.30 Racing News (2557) 9.00 Sports Centre (1871) 9.30 America (5881454) 10.00 Sports Centre (1871) 10.30 America (5881454) 11.00 Sports Centre (1871) 11.30 America (5881454) 12.00 Sports Centre (1871) 12.30 America (5881454)

SKY NEWS
7.00pm Sports Centre (7067) 7.30 Wheeling (4006) 8.30 Racing News (2557) 9.00 Sports Centre (1871) 9.30 America (5881454) 10.00 Sports Centre (1871) 10.30 America (5881454) 11.00 Sports Centre (1871) 11.30 America (5881454) 12.00 Sports Centre (1871) 12.30 America (5881454)

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RACING 43

Greaves proves first among equals at York

SPORT

FRIDAY AUGUST 22 1997

GOLF 46

Ballesteros vents his anger in row over slow play



Shambolic England save their worst for last as Australia take control in final Test

Beginning of the end for Atherton

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE OVAL (first day of five: England won 105): Australia, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 103 runs behind England

ALL THE fine words and good intentions came to nothing. When the crying need was to restore the spirits of the nation and protect the position of their captain, England instead raised a limp white flag. Their opening-day efforts at the Oval were the most abject of the summer and it will now require an act of great faith or bravado for Michael Atherton to remain in command beyond this match.

When Atherton won the toss for the first time in six Tests, England had the opportunity to follow the dictates of their coaching staff by batting for two days. Not for the first time, however, two sessions was their limit and they were dismissed below 200 for the fourth time in five first innings.

The difference this time was that only a very generous assessment could offer much in the way of mitigation. True,

this was not an archetypal Oval pitch — the bounce was capricious and the ball turned from the outset — and McGrath, who took seven for 76, bowled uncommonly well. But the England batting was weary, woefully inadequate.

Within the most depressing four hours of their late-summer decline were encapsulated all the problems confronting England — neurotic shot selection, fatally flawed techniques and inability to come to terms with the mental requirements of five-day cricket. Of the seven specialist batsmen, only two did not contribute to their own downfall. It was wretchedly submissive cricket. None of this is new; indeed, it is in constant repetition that it perplexes. The malaise, it appears, is ineradicable.

Only on Wednesday, Graham Gooch, a selector and part-time net bowler, had been bemoaning England's inconsistencies and reflecting that he was saying precisely the same things four years ago, when the last home Ashes series brought his own resignation as captain. Atherton,

his successor, won the corresponding game at the Oval that year in dramatic fashion. Those of us who remain convinced that he is the right man to lead the team to the West Indies this winter were hopeful of something similar here. It is a forlorn hope now.

Although Philip Tufnell aroused some patriotic optimism among another capacity crowd by taking two wickets

James on song 44
Sussex struggle 44
Simon Barnes 45

in his first seven balls of this series. Australia reached the close enviously placed. The help for the spin bowlers is unlikely to disappear and, in Shane Warne, they have the probable match-winner.

With Butcher restored as his partner, Atherton had set off confidently enough to support the early spread-betting predictions that England would make close to 400. McGrath had other ideas and in two spells of high quality, he took

his tally for the series to 36 wickets. Only three Australians in Ashes history have taken more.

David Lloyd, the England coach, has been exhorting his own bowlers to be more like McGrath; now he has further evidence to set before them. The most extreme of motivators, however, would hardly have dared suggest to McGrath that he would take seven wickets before tea, even on a day when the heavy atmosphere promoted movement. He needed no such assistance to remove Butcher, who dragged on an attempted pull in the fifth over, but produced a ball that darted back to claim Atherton for the seventh time in ten innings.

Hussain and Stewart, somehow, negotiated the rest of the session. Even they may not know how, for air shots, edges and sundry leg-before appeals punctuated their progress. Warne, summoned for the tenth over, discovered turn immediately, and when McGrath took a break, Kasproutz bowled a worthy and unlucky spell.

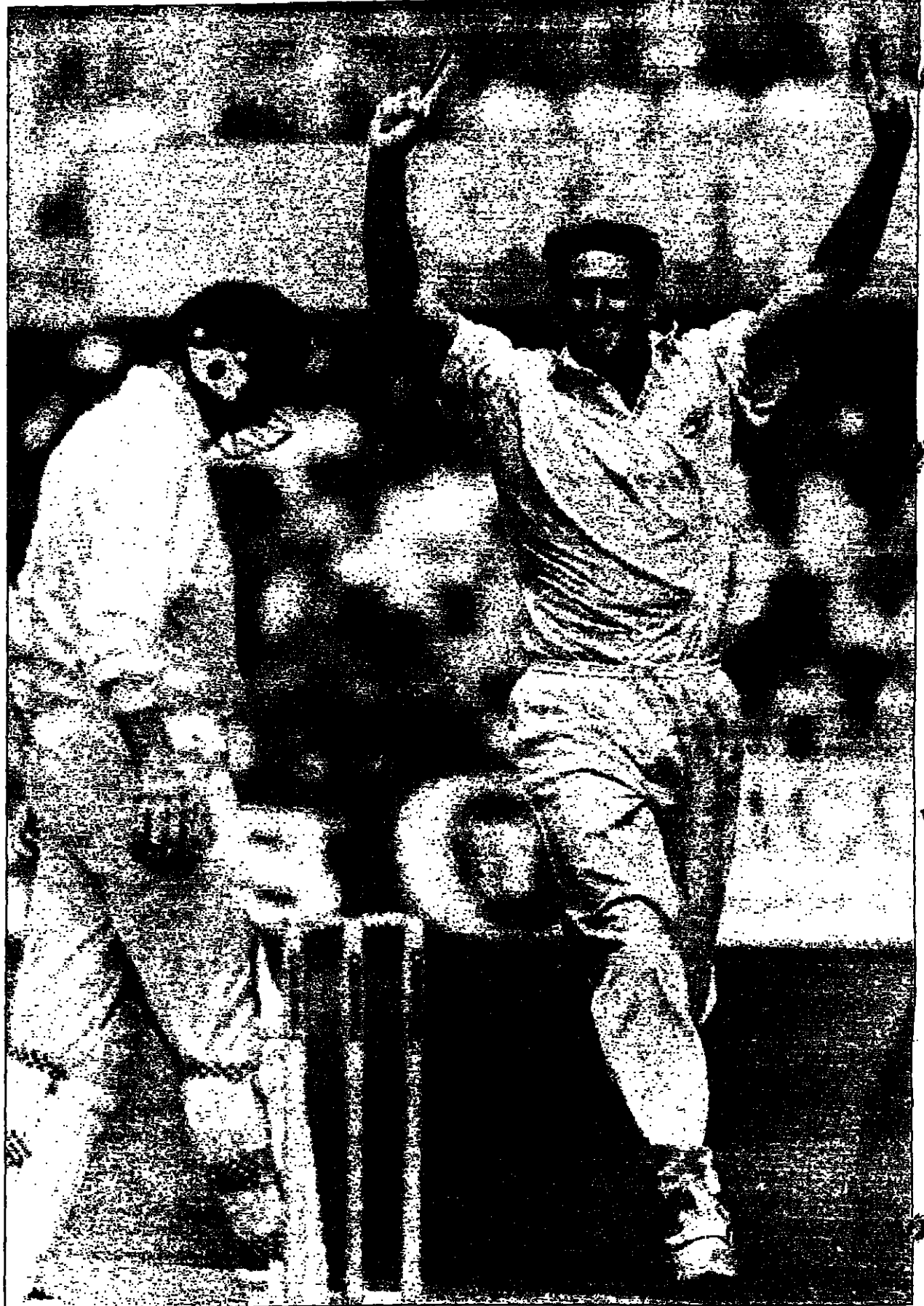
If one over could indicate the wreckage to come, it was the penultimate one before lunch, bowled by the debutant, Shaun Young. Three balls were loose, wide and demanding to be ignored: Hussain thrashed wildly at them all.

Stewart went to McGrath's first ball of the afternoon, stuck on his crease and leg-before to end the one substantial stand of the innings. When, at 128, Hussain drove off-balance to mid-on, the domino effect took charge. In five overs, while four runs were added, Thorpe was bowled behind his legs, Holloake was bowled shoulder to Warne and Ramprakash spooned a simple catch to short leg.

Ramprakash, especially, presented a sad sight as he trudged back, head low in acknowledgement of one more missed opportunity. He had lasted eight balls and managed to lower his already puny Test average. Although Caddick and Martin lifted the gloom — each hitting a six amid some merry defiance — the biggest cheer from the home crowd acclaimed the appearance of Malcolm, who was leg-before first ball.

He was no more impressive with the ball. In fact, he was dreadful and, at first, Martin was little better. After eight overs, Australia had rushed to 38 and Atherton withdrew his front-line attack.

Tufnell may no longer be the artful dodger who



Atherton hangs his head after being dismissed by McGrath, who celebrates the second of his seven wickets yesterday

hypnotised West Indies here in 1991, but he seemed to take instantly to the place. Elliott was bowled, driving ably at one that turned out of the footmarks, and Taylor was

caught at short leg. Tufnell may yet take a bagful of wickets here, but he must take them quickly and cheaply to protect England's dignity and to preserve their captain.

SCOREBOARD FROM THE OVAL

England won 105	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18 (Atherton 7, 2-24 (Stewart 4), 3-37 (Hussain 31), 4-128 (Thorpe 27), 5-131 (Ramprakash 3), 6-132 (Ramprakash 4), 7-132 (Caddick 6), 8-158 (Caddick 6), 9-175 (Caddick 21).	S R Waugh, R T Ponting, H A Healy, S M Waugh, S K Warne, M S Kasproutz and G D McGrath to bat.
ENGLAND: First Innings		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-49 (Taylor 35), 2-64 (Stewart 2).
M A Butcher to McGrath 6		
"M A Atherton c Healy b McGrath 6		
(11min 17 balls)		
1A J Stewart bow b McGrath 36		
(104min 73 balls, 4 fours)		
N Hussain c Elliott b McGrath 35		
(130min 114 balls, 4 fours)		
G P Thorpe b McGrath 27		
(61min 36 balls, 3 fours)		
M B Ramprakash c Stewart b McGrath 4		
(2min 1 ball)		
A J Holloake b Warne 0		
(from 5 balls)		
A M Caddick not out 26		
(20min 36 balls, 1 six, 4 fours)		
P J Martin b McGrath 20		
(20min 19 balls, 1 six, 1 four)		
P C R Tufnell c Stewart b Warne 1		
(20min 20 balls)		
D E Malcolm b Kasproutz 0		
(from 1 ball)		
Extras (lb 2, fb 6, nb 10) 18		
Total (56.4 overs, 240min) 180		
AUSTRALIA: First Innings		
M T G Elliott b Tufnell 12		
(30min 33 balls, 1 four)		
"M A Taylor c Holloake b Tufnell 36		
(60min 42 balls, 7 fours)		
G S Stewart not out 10		
(20min 41 balls)		
M E Waugh not out 13		
(44min 38 balls, 1 four)		
Extras (lb 1, nb 2) 4		
Total (12 wks, 25.1 overs, 103min) 77		

Alien approach makes a splash

FROM CRAIG LORD IN SEVILLE

IF YOU turn on your television this coming January to see eight aliens lined up at the start of a swimming race, do not be alarmed: the menaces behind the masks will be humans vying for earthly titles.

The revolutionary Speed-Mask, unveiled by Speculo in Sydney yesterday, makes wearers look like the bulbous-headed aliens from the X-Files or Batman without cars. Silver in colour, with ridges across the head and black goggles moulded into the light rubbery material, the mask is the brainchild of David Wilkie, the Briton who was one of the first swimmers in the world to wear a cap and goggles when he set a world record to become Olympic champion in the 200 metres breaststroke in 1976.

The idea is to cut down the drag of water around the goggles. Computer research using fluid dynamics suggests that the eye sockets create 20 per cent resistance in swimming and believe that the



O'Neill demonstrates the new mask in Sydney

mask will smooth out the turbulence between cap and goggles and improve the flow of water around the eyes by up to 53 per cent. Such statistics become more significant in a world where hundreds of a second can split gold medal-winners from those who fail to reach the rostrum.

In Australia, the mask was tested by Susan O'Neill, the woman who ended Michelle Smith's run of gold at the Atlanta Olympic Games last year with victory in the 200 metres butterfly, and her team-mate, Michael Klim.

O'Neill described wearing the mask as like being "in my own private world", saying that the cap dulled most sounds and concentrating the swimmer's mind on the task ahead like blinkers on a racehorse.

Klim, training partner of Alexander Popov, the Russian

who is Olympic champion over 50 and 100 metres freestyle, prefers to race bald, but said he was "as intrigued as everyone" about the mask. He said it was "a bit alien-like". He believed many swimmers would want to wear the mask.

Fina, the sport's international governing body, has approved the design and competitors will wear it in races for the first time at the world championships in Perth, Australia, in January. Each country will have its own launch, and elite competitors will get a chance to try the mask well before the championships.

There are two versions, one for distance events and the other, with smaller goggles, for sprint swimming. Wilkie worked on the project with Warwick Design Consultants and the Motor Industry Research Association.

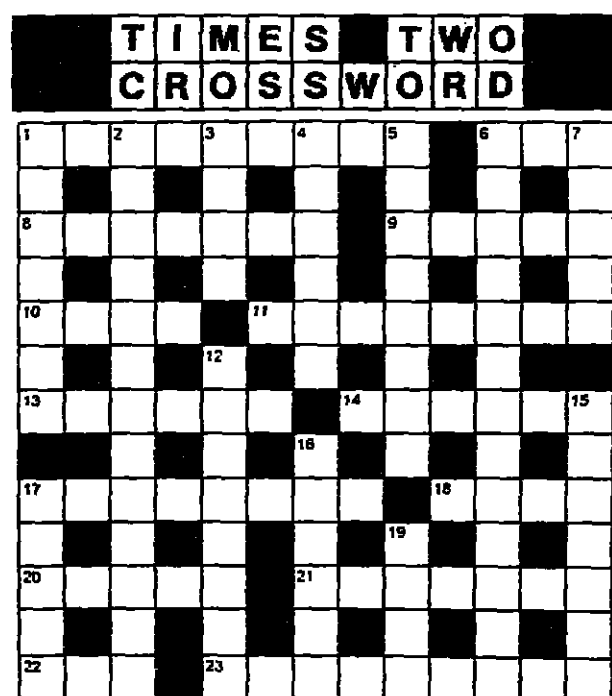
Smith beaten, page 46

Exit in Tot

THE trod the Golfers' surfaced nomenclature, the executive March 11 The off Coates years by somethir There that Coa result of Gill Wil executive annual n son was she resig is hardly who is t order to consulti this is t reason. "The functioni Nilsson, Europe said, "I to take st

Answers
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(a) A tr.
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SUKEY
(b) A tea-h
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SERAB
(a) A mir
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VOMITIA
(c) Redol
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No 1179

- ACROSS
- Latin Greek (civilisation) (9)
 - Kanga's child (Pooch) (3)
 - Enormous: it sunk (7)
 - Cultivated soil (5)
 - Trim, peel (4)
 - Shocking: unpleasant (8)
 - Borne on breeze (6)
 - Demanding: precise (6)
 - Uphill stone-roller (GK. myth) (8)
 - Epiphany visitors (4)
 - Strange: foreigner (5)
 - Smiled widely, nastily (7)
 - Enclosure: mate of coo (3)
 - Finally result (in) (9)
- DOWN
- A dupe: breeze on water (4-3)
 - Roughly speaking (5,1,7)
 - George..., Chopin's lover (4)
 - Bird (in wrong nest) (6)
 - Able to read and write (8)
 - Arne patriotic song (4,9)
 - Brownish-yellow earth (5)
 - Answer (8)
 - Idly play with (knob, thumb) (7)
 - Blunder (6)
 - Boo: overwhelm (5)
 - Closed hand (4)

The solution to 1178 will be published Wednesday, August 27

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